

〈NGO・外務省定期協議会 2023 年度第 2 回 ODA 政策協議会 議題案／質問状記入シート〉

1. 議題案名:

インドG20サミットの評価、ブラジルG20サミットへの期待および市民社会による提言

2. 議題の背景:

本年9月9日(土)・10日(日)にインド・ニューデリーにてG20サミット首脳会合が開催され、首脳コミニケが発表された¹。2024年の議長国はブラジルが務め、11月18日(土)・19日(日)にリオ・デ・ジャネイロで首脳会合の開催が予定されている²。

市民社会はG20の公式エンゲージメントグループの一つとして、7月29日(土)から31日(月)にかけて、インド・ジャイプールで700名以上の参加のもと、「C20サミット」が開催され、「C20政策提言書」がインド政府を代表してシュリ・ラジナート・シン国防大臣に手渡された³。また、C20を補完する「People's 20アッセンブリー」が、インドの市民社会によって8月23日(水)・24日(木)にインド・ニューデリーで開催され、「Peoples' 20 Policy Pack on G20 Summit」が発表された⁴。

一方、G20にはアフリカ連合が正式に参加し、BRICS首脳会合(ブラジル・ロシア・インド・中国・南アフリカ共和国)にアルゼンチン、エジプト、エチオピア、イラン、サウジアラビア、アラブ首長国連邦の6カ国が新規加盟することが承認された。

3. 議題に関わる問題点(議題に上げたい理由):

日本政府が議長国を務めたG7広島サミット首脳会合には、豪州、ブラジル、コモロ(アフリカ連合議長国)、クック諸島(太平洋諸島フォーラム議長国)、インド(G20議長国)、インドネシア(ASEAN議長国)、韓国、ベトナムの8カ国が招待⁵され、また、5月20日(土)に「パートナーとの関与の強化(グローバル・サウス、G20)」セッションが開催された⁶。

9月9日(土)・10日(日)に開催されたG20ニューデリー・サミットにおいて、岸田総理大臣は、気候・エネルギーに関連して、脆弱な国への更なる支援も必要である旨指摘し、先進国全体で年間1千億ドルを動員する目標は本年中に達成される見込みであることを紹介しつつ、今後、能力を有する全ての締約国及びステークホルダーによる資金動員への貢献も重要である旨を述べた。

¹ https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ecm/ec/page1_001835.html

² <https://www.gov.br/mre/en/contact-us/press-area/press-releases/brazils-g20-presidency>

³ https://civil20.net/wp-content/uploads/C20%20India%202023_Policy%20Pack.pdf

⁴ http://peoples20.org/en/images/03_10.pdf

⁵ <https://www.g7hiroshima.go.jp/summit/members/>

⁶ https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ecm/ec/page4_005920.html

その後、10月17日(火)には「グローバルサウス諸国との連携強化推進会議(第1回)」⁷が開催され、グローバルサウスとの連携に関する具体的な議論が進んでいるため、今後のG7・G20サミットでの議論を踏まえて質問したい。

4. 外務省への事前質問(論点を詰めるために事前に確認しておきたい事実関係などがあれば):

本年および2024年のG20は、ともにグローバルサウス諸国が主催するサミットであるが、「グローバルサウス諸国との連携強化推進会議(第1回)」の議事要旨⁸によれば、岸田総理大臣から「5月のG7広島サミットにおいては、いわゆるグローバルサウスとの関係強化を図った」旨の発言はあったものの、G20サミットについて外務省から特に言及されていない。外務省として、G20サミットへの関与と同推進会議での議論をどのように関連づけていくのかを伺いたい。

5. 議題の論点(定期協議会の場で主張したいことや、外務省に聞きたいこと):

- ・ G20インド・ニューデリーサミットの結果概要を報告いただきたい。
- ・ ブラジルが議長国となる2024年のG20に向けて、日本政府として特に強調したい政策課題、特に、気候・エネルギーに関する資金動員について、説明いただきたい。その際、11月30日(木)アラブ首長国連邦(UAE)において開催中の国連気候変動枠組条約第28回締約国会議(COP28)において、「損失と損害(ロス&ダメージ)に対応するための新たな資金措置(基金を含む)の運用化に関する決定が採択⁹」されたことを受け、日本政府として「基金の立ち上げのため、1000万米ドルを拠出する用意がある旨を表明」したこと、また、12月1日(金)、COP28の首脳級会合である世界気候行動サミットにおいて、岸田総理大臣が「世界銀行とアジア開発銀行に信用補完の供与を通じた合計約90億ドル規模の融資余力拡大に貢献する用意があることや、アフリカ開発銀行の新基金へも貢献することを明らかに¹⁰」したことを踏まえ、「能力を有する全ての締約国及びステークホルダーによる資金動員への貢献」に関する具体的な拠出計画を伺いたい。
- ・ 2023年のG20サミットに向けて活動したCivil20(C20)およびPeoples' 20の概要と提言書について紹介したい。Civil20は、「今日、世界が直面している多面的な危機からの持続的な回復には、金融資本とグローバルな金融構造が、この地球上の人間やその他の生物の生活において果たす役割と機能を根本的に変えることが必要」であるとの認識のもと、公式エンゲージメントグループの一つとして活動している。また、Peoples' 20は、Civil20を補完するプロセスとして独立した市民社会組織によって担われ、「G20およびG20以外の国々に影響を及ぼす様々な世界的危機や課題に直面する中で、人々の関心、人権、そして地球の保護を提唱」し、G20諸国が

⁷ https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/global_south/index.html

⁸ https://www.cas.go.jp/jp/seisaku/global_south/dai1/gijiyousi.pdf

⁹ https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ch/pagew_000001_00015.html

¹⁰ https://www.mofa.go.jp/mofaj/ic/ch/pageit_000001_00027.html

「経済的・社会的困窮や排除、不平等、武力紛争、軍事化、保健、教育、食糧、エネルギー、気候に関する危機」などに適切に対応することを求めている。詳細は資料1を参照のこと。

- 氏名:堀内葵
- 役職:シニアアドボカシーオフィサー
- 所属団体:特定非営利活動法人国際協力NGOセンター

以上

(資料 1) C20 政策提言書 2024 (Civil20 India 2023 Policy Pack) 概要

インドが議長国を務める C20 では、7 月末のジャイプールでの C20 サミットまでに 1,000 を超える会議が開催され、184,000 人以上の参加が見込まれている。その活動は、会議、ワークショップ、セミナー、ユース・アンバサダー・プログラムなどで構成されている。C20 のもとに設置されたワーキンググループは従来の関心テーマだけでなく、新しいテーマもカバーしている。

長い歴史の中で、今日ほど世界がつながり、相互依存し、相互の脆弱性にさらされている時代はなかった。従って、インドの G20 のモットーである「Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam」、すなわち「一つの地球、一つの家族、一つの未来」の重要性は、現在も最も重要であり、将来にわたっても、私たちの関心事の不変のモチーフであり続けなければならない。G20 にアフリカ連合が加わることを求めると同時に、先進国と開発途上国、そしてグローバルサウス諸国間の協力関係を強化することを期待する。

今日、世界中で大きな金融・債務危機が発生している。パンデミックにより 2 億人が貧困ラインを下回り、世界中で 1 億人が職を失い、75 カ国が大きな債務危機に直面している。

私たちは、多くの途上国に影響を及ぼしている生活費危機や債務危機の影響だけでなく、金融市場の不安定化や、少なくとも 10 年以上続く可能性のある構造的な成長鈍化にも直面している。パンデミック後のリスクが残る一方で、気候関連の異常気象が脅威を増している。ヨーロッパ、アフリカ、その他の地域では、市民の抗議行動が増加し、暴力的な紛争が激しさと広がりを増している。しかし、こうした課題もまた、世界中で想像力に富んだレジリエントな対応を呼び起こしている。COVID-19 の脅威は、「アウトブレイクと緊急事態のための統一プラットフォーム」の創設につながり、保健医療対応の設計と実施に取り組むために、パートナーシップと提携の複雑なエコシステムが出現した。気候変動は、制度面でも大きな革新を促した。ネット・ゼロ運動は、国際的な気候変動対策をより推進するために、多様な提携のエコシステムをもたらした。

全体的な見通しは依然として厳しいが、希望と自信を抱かせる理由もある。この希望こそが、C20 が国際社会に影響を与えるさまざまな問題について発言する原動力となっている。

私たち Civil20 ワーキンググループの政策提言書は、強大な経済力と政治力、影響力を持つ G20 加盟国に対し、これらの根本的な問題に取り組むため、国内および国際レベルで行動し、国連の多国間枠組みを強化・改革するために堅実に取り組むよう求めるものである。特に、今日、世界が直面している多面的な危機からの持続的な回復には、金融資本とグローバルな金融構造が、この地球上の人間やその他の生物の生活において果たす役割と機能を根本的に変えることが必要である。そのためには以下の行動が起こす必要がある。

- A. 公正で効果的なソブリン債の再設計に役立つ、より良い新しいメカニズムを構築・支援するために、世界的な債務構造を再考すること。
- B. 気候変動、公衆衛生の不備、不平等の拡大など、複数の課題に対処するための社会福祉と資源への投資を可能にするために、財政的余地を拡大すること。
- C. OECD に代わり、国連の支援の下、グローバルな租税ガバナンスを民主化すること。また、租税回避、税源浸食、利益移転と闘う必要がある。
- D. 貧困を削減し、SDGs を達成し、グローバルな課題に取り組むために、多国間開発銀行と金融機関を改革すること。
- E. すべての SDGs に焦点を当てること。民間セクターは、人々や地球に深刻な被害をもたらす負の外部性に対し、対価を支払わなければならない。

F. f 政府は、個人、家計、小規模起業家の持続不可能な債務負担を、尊厳ある退出のための仕組みを作ることで軽減すること。

大局的な観点から言えば、C20 は、人と地球を「抽出可能な資源」として利用する経済成長モデルから、世界規模で「人と地球のために働くように経済をプログラムし直す」ことへの転換を求めている。

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C20 ガバナンス:

議長:

Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi, Mata Amritanandamayi Math

シェルパ:

Vijay K. Nambiar, Retired Ambassador of India & Under-Secretary General of the United Nations

サブシェルパ:

Dr. Swadesh Singh, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, India

Kiran DM, Youth For Seva, India

事務局:

Dr. Vinay Sahasrabuddhe, Patron of the Secretariat, India

Dr. Jayant Kulkarni, Executive Director, Rambhau Mhalgi Prabodhini, India

コア・グループ・メンバー:

Sri M, The Satsang Foundation, India

Nivedita Bhide, Vivekananda Kendra, India

トロイカ:

Swami Amritaswaroopananda Puri, President, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham, India
Ah Maftuchan, The Prakarsa, Indonesia
Alessandra Nilo, GESTOS, Brazil

運営委員:

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Vasuki Kalyanasundaram, The Satsang Foundation, India
Martine Reicherts, Former European Commissioner Of Justice, Luxembourg
Aoi Horiuchi, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC), Japan
Nidhi Goyal, Rising Flame, India

国際諮問委員:

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Naila Chowdhury, Global Advisor, Cure Violence Global & Chairperson, Women 4 Empowerment
Joost Monks, Executive Director, Humanitarian Quality Assurance Initiative, Switzerland
Andy Carmone, Clinton Health Access Initiative, USA
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Binny Buchori, The Prakarsa, Indonesia
Guillermina Alaniz, Director of Global Advocacy & Policy, Aids Healthcare Foundation AHF
Riccardo Moro, Secretary General, LVIA, Italy
Pedro Bocca, Abong, Brazil
Shyam Parande, Global Coordinator, Sewa International, India
Virendra Gupta, President, Indian Council for International Cooperation, India
Dr. Shashi Bala, President, International Council of Cultural Studies, India

公式サイト:

<https://civil-20.org/>

Civil20 (C20)による気候資金に関する提言は以下の通り(35 ページ):

- 世界銀行グループは、2022 年度に、気候変動に取り組む国々を支援するため、過去最高の 317 億ドルを拠出した。しかし、現在の気候変動ファイナンスの仕組みは、特に発展途上で気候変動に対して最も脆弱な経済圏において、不均等かつ非効率的に分配されている。
- G20 は、気候変動資金における官民および非営利セクター間の協力を促進し、気候変動対策の幅と効果を高めるためのパートナーシップを促進する国内政策を確立すべきである。
- 各国政府は、気候関連災害の被害を受けた最も脆弱なコミュニティのニーズを満たすため、緊急資金調達メカニズムを強化し、容易にアクセスできるようにし、即時かつタイムリーな支援を提供すべきである。
- 各国政府は、気候変動の緩和と適応のための具体的な資金調達を拡大し、資金の効果的な配分と分配において包括性と社会正義を確保すべきである。
- G20 は、気候変動リスク評価を統合し、コミュニティ規模のレジリエンス構築戦略を資金調達やプロジェクト実施、あらゆるレベルやセクターにわたる意思決定プロセスに統合し、各国政府が気候変動目標と

その他の開発目標との潜在的なトレードオフやシナジーを特定できるようにするための方策を検討しなければならない。

- G20 は、投資決定を導き、地域社会に根ざした積極的な緩和・適応行動を推進するため、国別の気候適応の指標と基準を策定しなければならない。

(資料 2) Peoples' 20 概要および政策提言書 (Peoples' 20 Policy Pack on G20 Summit)

G20 サミットに関する政策提言書は、PEOPLES' 20 が提示した課題や重要な政策提言に関する包括的な概要であり、2023 年にインドで開催される G20 サミットの主要議題を取り上げている。これらの提言は、テーマ別ワーキング・ドキュメントを通して得られた洞察から抽出されたものであり、志を同じくする国際的な市民社会組織 (CSOs) やそのネットワークからの補足的な参考資料も含まれている。さらに、バンコクとインド各地で一連の地域協議が開催され、最終的には 8 月 23・24 日に「PEOPLES' 20 アッセンブリー (PEOPLES' 20 Assembly)」がインド・ニューデリーで開催された。この文書を完成させるために、すべてのインプットが取り入れられ、2023 年の G20 サミットとそれに関連するイニシアティブに関わる市民社会と自主的な人々の運動の視点を反映し、重要な擁護者の役割を担っている。

PEOPLES' 20 は、G20 サミットおよび関連プロセスに自発的に関与する市民社会アクターや団体からなるグローバル・ネットワークであり、イニシアティブである。2010 年以来、G20 に積極的に関与してきたインド内外の CSO による一連の協議を経て、2023 年 3 月 1 日に正式に発足した。

PEOPLES' 20 は、G20 がグローバルな金融・経済課題に取り組む可能性を認識しつつ、経済格差、国際金融アーキテクチャー、債務の持続可能性、気候変動といったグローバルなシステム的な問題に効果的に取り組むことにはほとんど失敗している、と考えている。

PEOPLES' 20 は、社会から疎外され、排除されたコミュニティや人々の声が G20 の国際的な意思決定プロセスに反映されるよう努力している。

PEOPLES' 20 は、G20 および G20 以外の国々に影響を及ぼす様々な世界的危機や課題に直面する中で、人々の関心、人権、そして地球の保護を提唱している。これらの課題には、経済的・社会的困窮や排除、不平等、武力紛争、軍事化、保健、教育、食糧、エネルギー、気候に関する危機などが含まれる。

PEOPLES' 20 は、国連憲章、持続可能な開発のための 2030 アジェンダ/持続可能な開発目標 (SDGs)、パリ気候協定、人権・労働・環境・平和・安全保障に関する国際条約、2023 年 3 月に採択された後発開発途上国ドーハ行動計画 (DPoA) を含むがこれらに限定されない国際的な合意や公約を厳守するよう求めることで、G20 の説明責任を強化することを目指している。

PEOPLES' 20 は、G20 サミット (閣僚会議、シェルパ会議、作業部会会議を含む)、およびグローバルな正義、平等、平和を補完的かつ独立した方法で推進するためのエンゲージメントグループなどの関連機関に批判的に関与することを目的としている。

PEOPLES' 20 はまた、国連、G7、BRICS など、他の政府間プロセスにおける志を同じくする CSO やそのネットワークと連帯し、労働団体、シンクタンク、女性グループ、若者など、G20 の様々なステークホルダー・グループと関わることを目指している。

PEOPLES' 20 のガバナンス、G20 および非 G20 諸国からの 6 人の共同議長、国際アドバイザー、作業部会、タスクフォースで構成されている。

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PEOPLES’ 20 共同議長:

1. Annie Namala, Wada Na Todo Abhiyan (WNTA), India
2. Vidya Dinker, India Social Action Forum (INSAF), India
3. Anselmo Lee, Asia Civil Society Partnership for Sustainable Development/SDGs (APSD), South Korea
4. Aoi Horiuchi, Japan NGO Center for International Cooperation (JANIC) / C7 2023 Japan Host CSO
5. Francesco Aureli, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP) Italy / C7 2024 Italy Host CSO
6. Netra Timsina, Least Developed Countries (LDC) Watch, Nepal

PEOPLES’ 20 国際アドバイザー:

1. Ajay Jha, PAIRVI, India
2. Alejandra Gutierrez, My World Mexico, Mexico
3. Arjun Karki, Least Developed Countries (LDC) Watch, Nepal
4. Corazon Valdez-Fabros, International Peace Bureau (IPB), Philippines
5. Gabriele Koehler, External Adviser to the UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD), Germany
6. Hideki Wakabayashi, Think Lobby, Japan
7. Ingo Ritz, Global Call to Action against Poverty (GCAP), Germany
8. Jeffrey Huffines, Coalition for the UN We Need (C4UN), USA
9. Jomo Kwame Sundaram, Former UN Assistant Secretary General on Economic and Social Affairs, Malaysia
10. Mandeep Tiwana, CIVICUS–World Alliance for Citizen Participation, South Africa
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13. Sam Worthington, Former President Inter-Action, USA
14. William Gois, Migrant Forum in Asia (MFA), Philippines

PEOPLES’ 20 ワーキンググループ:

1. Economy and Finance
2. Economic and Social Development
3. Environment and climate
4. Peace and Security
5. Democracy and Civic Space
6. Inclusiveness – Leave No One Behind

7. Global Governance and UN

8. Youth

PEOPLES' 20 タスクフォース:

1. Agriculture and Food
2. Business and Human Rights
3. Education
4. Anti-corruption and Accountability
5. CSR Nexus (Climate-SDGs-Human Rights)

公式サイト:

<http://peoples20.org/en/main.php>

Peoples' 20 による気候資金に関する提言は以下の通り(p.54-55):

- G20 諸国は、深刻化する気候危機を踏まえ、適応のための資金を増やす必要がある。途上国の適応資金の年間ニーズは、2030 年までに 1,400 億米ドルから 3,000 億米ドルと見積もられている。2019 年から 2020 年にかけての年間 6,320 億米ドルと推定される世界の民間および公的な気候変動資金の流れには、適応資金の 7% (460 億米ドル)しか含まれていない。
- G20 諸国は、途上国の人々やその他の影響を受ける地域社会が気候変動の影響(過去、現在、将来の損失を含む)に対処できるようにするための費用と、途上国が公平で炭素排出後の持続可能なシステムに移行できるようにするための費用を全額負担すべきである。すべての気候変動資金は、GNI の 0.7%に達すべきである)ODA に追加される新たなものでなければならない。
- ODA の不足を補うこと。ODA の 50 年来の約束はまだ果たされていない。すべての OECD DAC 諸国が GNP の 0.7%を提供すれば、毎年 2,000 億米ドルを動員できる。不足しているのは 5 兆ドル以上である。この 50 年間で G20 は、DAC 諸国に対し、ODA の不足を補うよう圧力をかけなければならない。
- 損失と損害について、歴史的責任を認めなければならない。G20 諸国は、新たに設立された損失と損害の資金メカニズムに資金を割り当てなければならない。
- 気候変動資金は、他の国際金融機関から独立した、民主的で説明責任のある世界基金を通じて調達されるべきであり、直接アクセスの原則と、資金使用に関する各国の決定と参加による決定が守られなければならない。
- 富裕国からの送金を拡大するために必要な新たな手段を導入すること。これには、COVID-19 パンデミック危機の際に、急遽、多額の公的資金を提供するために引き出された IMF の「特別引出権(SDR)」のような資金源を利用することが考えられる。
- 私たちは、公平で民主的なポスト・カーボンシステムへの転換を進めなければならない。G20 は、2025 年までに、エネルギー関連の国内外の公的資金を、1.5 度という制限に沿って、費用対効果が高く、クリーンで、健全かつ安全な再生可能エネルギーとエネルギー効率のみを支援するよう、方向転換を開始するプロセスを構築すべきである。

以上

Civil 20 India 2023

POLICY PACK

#YouAreTheLight



CIVIL 20 INDIA 2023





“Let us all proceed, with one mind and one goal, to work selflessly for the world’s welfare. May our acts become a noble ideal for those who will come after us. May the tree of our life be firmly rooted in the soil of love. May our good actions be its leaves. May our kind words be its flowers. May peace be its fruits. May this world grow and prosper as one family, united in love. May the ethos of vasudhaiva kutumbakam ‘The world is one family’ awaken, be put into practise and bear fruit in everyone. May we realise a world where there is endless peace and harmony. May Divine Grace bless us all. “

-Sri Mata Amritanandamayi Devi

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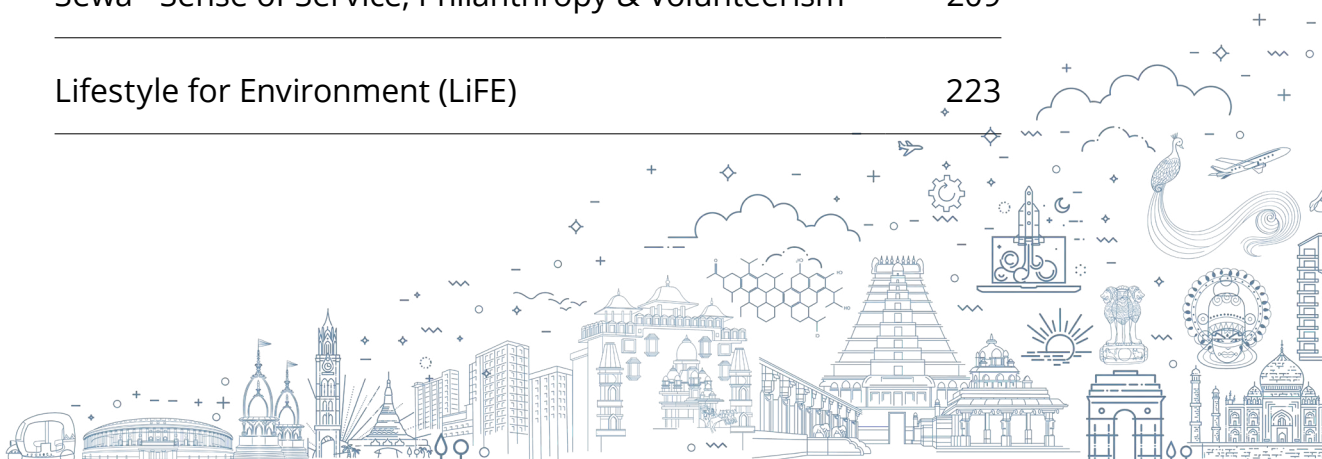


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Working Group's
Policy Briefs

Civil-20 2023



An Introduction

The C20 under India's chair has had an unprecedented degree of "Jan Bhagidaari" or people's participation. More than 1000 meetings will have been held by the time of the Jaipur Summit in end-July. With the participation of more than 184,000 persons covering 74 nationalities, including mainly countries of the Global South, its activities have comprised, both in-person and online, conferences, workshops, seminars, "chaupals", "samaj-shalas" and youth ambassador programmes. The number of Working Groups (WGs) set up under C20 auspices this year have also been larger than ever before. They cover both traditional themes of concern as well as new themes

The policy pack prepared for the Summit is likely therefore to be voluminous. If working papers, white papers and other assorted documentations are included, the C20 Working Group material would be quite considerable.

Coming to substantive issues, never in its long history has the world been as connected, interdependent and exposed to mutual vulnerabilities as it is today. The salience of India's G20 motto: "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam", or "One Earth, One Family One Future", therefore remains of utmost relevance and indeed must remain the abiding leitmotif for our preoccupations, even into the future. While calling for the inclusion of the African Union within the G20 organisation, we look forward to increased cooperation between developed and developing nations, as well as among the countries of Global South. Today, there is a major financial and debt crisis across the world. The pandemic has pushed 200 million people below the poverty line, 100 million people have lost their jobs around the world and 75 countries are facing major debt crises. We face not only the fallout of the cost-of-living and

debt crises affecting many developing countries, but also instability in financial markets and a structural slowdown in growth that could persist over at least a decade. While post-pandemic risks linger, climate-related extreme weather events pose a growing threat. Public protests are on the rise and violent conflicts have escalated in intensity and breadth in Europe, Africa, and elsewhere. But these challenges have also evoked imaginative and resilient responses around the globe. The threat of COVID-19 resulted in the creation of a "unified platform for outbreaks and emergencies," and a complex ecosystem of partnerships and alliances emerged to tackle the design and delivery of health responses. Climate change has prompted significant institutional innovations. The net-zero movement has brought together diverse ecosystems of alliances to drive international climate action more purposively.

So, while the overall prospect remains grim, there are also reasons for hope and confidence. It is this hope that motivates the C20 to speak out on such a wide range of issues affecting the international family of nations. We

call on G20 whose members command formidable economic and political power and influence to act at both national and international levels to address these fundamental questions and to work steadfastly to strengthen and reform the multilateral framework of the United Nations. In particular, sustained recovery from the multi-dimensional crisis facing the world today will require fundamental changes to the roles and functions that financial capital and the global financial architecture perform in the lives of humans and other living beings on this planet. They must involve:

- a. Rethinking the global debt architecture to create and support better and new mechanisms that can help in fair and effective sovereign debt restructuring.
- b. Expanding fiscal space to allow for social protections and investment in resources to help deal with multiple

challenges such as climate change, public health inadequacies and growing inequality.

- c. Democratizing global tax governance under the auspices of the United Nations instead of the OECD. It also requires combating tax avoidance, base erosion, and profit shifting.
- d. Reform of Multilateral Development Banks and financial institutions of their mission, incentives, and operational approaches to better address global challenges, reduce poverty and achieve SDGs.
- e. G20 governments focusing on all SDGs. The private sector must pay for negative externalities that bring serious harm to people and the planet.
- f. Governments reducing the unsustainable debt burden of individuals, households, and small entrepreneurs through legitimate entrepreneurial efforts by creating mechanisms for such dignified exit.

Broadly, therefore, the C20 calls for a shift away from an economic growth model that uses people and the planet

as “extractable resources” to a global “reprogramming of our economies to work for its people and planet.”

I. Sustainable & Resilient Communities

This WG has done major work on a range of environmental issues: Enhancing regional climate resilience and disaster management capabilities by ensuring rights, access, and sustainability for food security, climate-resilient agriculture by promoting sustainable practices and knowledge transfer; prioritising ecosystem restoration, biodiversity protection, sustainable water governance, and coastal conservation; climate-sensitive planning for climate-induced displacement; climate finance for inclusive and effective climate action; focusing on lifestyle changes and

demand reduction, circular economy, deep decarbonization; and fostering peace, harmony, and compassion by integrating cultural values as well as rediscovering local traditions. It is clear that not enough funding has gone into adaptation. Multilateral institutions must be incentivised to do direct lending. New imaginative sources must be located from both private and public sectors. New structures are needed for credit enhancements, first loss guarantees and better de-risking modalities. The resources needed are not in billions but in trillions of US dollars.

II. Integrated Holistic Health

The WG's key policy recommendations align with G20 priorities: universal health coverage with a guarantee of "access for all" for preventative care, therapy, and health system delivery through public health institutions and private sector; reduction in the cost of healthcare; management of mental health conditions and promotion of mental well-being; sustainable implementation of national mental

health program in all G20 countries; creating and implementing policies on One-Health, with emphasis on antimicrobial resistance encompassing surveillance, data sharing and alerts, research and shared infrastructure and management; as well as advancing efforts to tackle communicable and non-communicable diseases. Also, they seek to promote digital health strategies to reduce healthcare costs.

III. Technology, Security & Transparency

This group has focused on cross-cutting and thematic recommendations aimed at creating a digital future that is more accessible, secure, transparent, and inclusive. A future that leverages technology to create safer, more equitable societies globally to deal with the ever-evolving digital environment.

In Technology for Empowerment, the WG calls for enhancing accessibility and inclusivity by setting up infrastructure bridging the digital divide, promoting user-centric design and subsidies that increase access to assistive technologies, establishing open-data policies, and democratising e-commerce platforms.

Regarding cybersecurity, the need for enhanced cooperation is stressed, as provided in the Budapest Convention and an additional protocol to the Geneva Convention pertaining to the protection of critical infrastructure against cyber-attacks. Moreover, the need for improved collaboration between national and international agencies to mitigate cybercrime and for norms to be set to prevent AI misuse in safety-critical applications was highlighted.

Pertaining to AI and data, the WG emphasises that both data collection and AI technology deployment must be ethical, fair, and safe. They portray the need to generate high-quality datasets and create international regulations assigning liability for technology-related harms.

The Group also calls for tackling disinformation by developing a shared terminology and a comprehensive strategy, establishing national information networks and effective legal infrastructure, and enhancing transparency and trust within the technology supply chain.

A new “GLIDES” initiative has been launched to create a global alliance of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) as part of Civil20, working collectively to enable an inclusive, open, non-discriminatory, and fair digital society. With CSOs from 22 countries as members, GLIDES serves as a platform to provide opportunities for policy recommendations, sharing best practices, and collaborating on issues such as digital access, internet governance, online safety, net neutrality, and data privacy.

IV. Education & Digital Transformation

The Education and Digital Transformation Working Group (EDTWG) suggested key areas of focus to foster inclusive, accessible, compassionate, and human-centered education and digital transformation which include:

- ◆ Education for Life and Global Citizenship covering experiential learning and community involvement in rural villages, promoting indigenous cultures and knowledge systems, and address mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of people.
- ◆ Education for persons with disability which emphasizes early identification and intervention for persons with disabilities, awareness about inclusion and designing and implementing policies for early detection of disabilities, supporting research in disability studies and building tools for early identification, and provision of low-cost assistive technology for inclusion.
- ◆ Learning Equity & The Future of Education: Enhancing equitable

access to education and ensuring the fair allocation of resources through learning equity audits as well as promoting inclusion of people from vulnerable populations in decision-making processes. Other recommendations include fostering mutual recognition of online and on-site degrees and certificate courses, developing inclusive curricula, and providing pedagogical skills, inclusion, and technology training for teachers.

- ◆ Skill Development covering inclusive financing mechanisms for skill development as well as and Education in Emergencies providing localized emergency curriculum models and for enhancement of teacher capacity for inclusive education and invest in continuous professional development; Digital Transformation & Accessibility by developing human-centered design principles, promoting digital public goods and providing comprehensive training on responsible technology use. The recommendations emphasize inclusive digital access for all, including marginalized and vulnerable populations.

V. Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment

This Group has underlined the focus on women, transgender people, and other populations that are marginalised at the “base of the pyramid”, those who have the least access, opportunities, resources, and privilege, and yet comprise a majority of the world's population. At current rates of progress, the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Index Report estimates that it will require 132 years to achieve gender equality.

Cross-cutting recommendations include:

- ◆ Improving gender-disaggregated data collection to inform decision-making.
- ◆ Integrating monitoring and evaluation into policy development for transparency and accountability.
- ◆ Allocating sufficient resources to gender equality policies and programmes.
- ◆ Prioritising safety and security for girls and women in all aspects of life.

The thematic recommendations focused on:

- ◆ Prioritising mental health and investing in accessible mental health services for women and girls by developing comprehensive national mental health education policies and integrating such policies into schools and workplaces.
- ◆ Expanding access to education, particularly for rural and marginalised women by addressing barriers such as safety concerns, inadequate sanitation facilities, and lack of digital infrastructure.
- ◆ Establishing gender-responsive learning centres, ensuring access for marginalised groups, improving existing infrastructure, and expanding internet connectivity are key goals.
- ◆ Engaging men and boys which is vital for achieving gender equality. Harmful social norms contribute to issues like violence against women; and gender sensitization and transformative education should be provided to various stakeholders.

- ◆ Ensuring disaster preparedness and management includes women and girls who are disproportionately affected.
- ◆ Mandating their representation in decision-making bodies, conducting gender and vulnerability assessments, providing gender-responsive training, and collaborating with local organisations are essential.
- ◆ Promoting women's economic empowerment and enhancing financial inclusion and equal financing opportunities (25% in green and blue economies and priority procurement for women entrepreneurs) through collaboration between relevant institutions and organisations.

VI. Disability, Equity & Justice

The policy suggestions cover a gamut of issues from education and employment to health, social protection and environment-related needs.

Education: They ask for a greater understanding of the needs of children across disabilities, material in local languages, understanding the needs of diverse learning styles and requirements and addressing barriers to inclusion not limited to inaccessible transport and physical infrastructure. Their need for equitable access to digital infrastructure as well as support services communication aids and other

facilities is also underscored.

Employment: SDG Target 4.5 requires enabling policies and strategies to support access to Technical and Vocational Education and Training (TVET) programmes for persons with disabilities consistent with ILO standards, as also to ILO Violence and Harassment Convention norms (No. 190) and (No. 206) to address discrimination, harassment, and violence against persons with disabilities in the workplace.

Health: They call for acknowledgment and design of disability inclusion as a necessary component of public health initiatives. There is a need to implement a strong health policy and research agenda on disability inclusion to develop interventions; address the vast inequities in health care access for persons with disabilities, and ensure

that healthcare providers are well trained and WASH programmes are accessible.

Social Protection: They call for action to create an adaptive Universal Framework for Social Protection of Persons with Disabilities.

VII. Life Style for Environment (LiFE)

The LiFE WG has tried to prepare a value-based sustainability framework to guide and assess the progress of countries. Global well-being i.e., Sumangalam will be the universal principle of this framework which will include a set of values, concepts, instruments, and actionables for individuals and communities. This brings a much-required holistic perspective to the subject of sustainability and stresses values like compassion, gratitude, respecting diversity, a sense of responsibility, decentralization, harmony, using local resources (and not drawing from far-off places) etc. Behavioural indicators, goals, and levels of progress can be defined

from these sets of values. LiFE along with the value-based sustainability framework will bring in a paradigm shift from right based approach to a responsibility-based approach in global environmental governance. LiFE is a set of good, desirable practices rooted in cultural traditions, customary practices, grassroots innovations, and environmentally conscious contemporary actions. LiFE can complement scientific, political, and economic measures of global environmental governance. However, it would require close cooperation between the government and society in which societal responsibility would be a little higher than the government.

VIII. SDG16 Plus and Enhancing Civic Space

Notwithstanding the current geopolitical challenges, urgent action is needed to reduce the gap between the polarized viewpoints across the world. While governments have committed to building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, many of these are still weak and ineffective. Without the support of all G20 countries, the international community's collective commitment to fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive societies cannot succeed. As we reach the halfway point to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, civil society calls on the G20 to intervene and take bold actions - including through substantial financial commitments. Steps taken by the Indian G20 Presidency in its Action Plan 2023 would assist in planning the next steps for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

Unless member states, UN bodies, multilateral agencies, donors, the private sector, CSOs, and others work

collectively, progress on SDG16 Plus goals will not be possible. This means protecting fundamental freedoms, addressing systemic barriers, and promoting civic space. It also means promoting greater transparency and accountability, strengthening anti-corruption laws, and policies and international cooperation to prevent illicit financial flows, stolen assets, and organized crime. The G20 Indian Presidency has included asset recovery, information sharing and integrity and effectiveness of public bodies under its anti-corruption priorities for 2023. Equally noteworthy is its scaling up of public digital platforms like Aadhar, Unified Payment Interface (UPI), digital signature, etc., and adoption of AI in fintech and high-speed internet services which are a model for emulation to meet the global need for better public goods. An annual review of the SDG16 Plus is well warranted.

IX. Diversity, Inclusion and Mutual Respect

The WG underlined the urgency of inclusion of those left behind in the development process due to want, disability, disease, or neglect. This comprised inclusion policies for LGBTQAI, indigenous communities, and support for traditional practices.

The WG's recommendations focused on avoiding fixed binaries, preserving cultural diversity, building knowledge bases, and incorporating traditional knowledge into policy-making and education systems.

X. "Sewa", Philanthropy & Volunteerism

The concept of "Sewa" embodies voluntarism based on selflessness and the desire to create positive change in the world on the basis of the fundamental value of giving back to society, fostering empathy, and making a positive impact on the lives of others. The WG called for:

1. The creation of a global alliance of individuals and civil society organizations to facilitate Sewa on a global scale.
2. Utilizing the experiences and talents of the elderly and retirees towards for nation-building purposes and mentoring of youth.
3. Establishing a global network of civil societies and voluntary organizations practising Sewa in different countries, and
4. Developing a compendium of exemplary Sewa practices from G20 and other countries to foster cross-country learning, inspire new initiatives, and promote collaboration among nations.

XI. Delivering Democracy

This WG's report calls for founding democracy on native models of governance, native values, and ethos, and best practices and learning. It calls for engagement of young people in democratic processes and to inculcate respect for democratic processes and institutions at the school and university levels.

It also emphasises practising grassroots democracy at village level

by respecting the individual as the cornerstone of democratic process. It speaks of adapting digital democracy by expanding digital and internet footprints countrywide and using social media intelligently. It also speaks of responsible citizenry and responsive governance; and direct or indirect participation by the people in governance as well as in the assertion of their rights of self-governance.

XII. River Revival and Water Management

This WG proposes several recommendations for river revival and water management that emphasize the importance of maintaining the natural flow and self-purification capacity of rivers, as well as protecting water resources as commons. They call for government stewardship, including respecting citizens' rights and relationships with water, preventing environmentally costly projects, and

implementing pollution prevention laws. The involvement of diverse stakeholders, such as indigenous communities, NGOs, and experts, is also highlighted. The G20 is urged to leverage technology, strengthen cross-border cooperation, and consider environmental factors in valuing water resources. The approach should be integrated, scalable, participatory, and supported by sustainable financing

XIII. Other Working Groups

Similarly the **Working Groups on Human Rights and Human Values** as well as the one on **Preservation of Traditional Arts and Crafts and Protection of Livelihoods** have laboured hard and presented meaningful policy recommendations that are detailed in their respective presentations. Globalisation, industrialisation, and

changing lifestyles have all posed problems for traditional art, crafts, and culture recently and G20 nations need to take measures to promote and maintain traditional art, crafts, and culture in order to solve these issues and further their preservation and conservation.

XIV. Compassion: Desideratum for a Harmonious and Flourishing Future

The world is witnessing an alarming rise in violence against both humanity and the environment. Interpersonal violence affects millions of people, with a staggering number of annual fatalities globally. While efforts are being made to address its causes, that alone is inadequate to restore peace and harmony in society and nature. As the C20 Chair, Mata Amritanandamayi Devi says: “People experience two types of poverty in this world – poverty of material goods and poverty of love and compassion.” Compassion is the most important factor that can transform lives.

It helps people take decisions and actions with spontaneity, power and effect. As a foundational element, it will need to be integrated into our educational curriculum. It must instill a sense of oneness among individuals, amplifying their power to fight against odds and enabling them to live in harmony with nature for not just a sustainable but a flourishing future. We must strive to foster peace and harmony across continents, integrating cultural values and rediscovering local traditions.

An exemplary compassion practice developed recently is the geo-enabled software platform titled: “Sustainability and Resilience for Community Engagement and Empowerment (SREE)” integrated with a crowd-sourced mobile application titled “Empower Community.” This integrated platform is capable of measuring, mapping, analysing, and proposing recommendations for community-level sustainability and resilience indicators. SREE operates on community-driven data that is aggregated according to thematic layers which can be assessed on a multi-scale approach bringing multiple stakeholders on to a common knowledge acquisition level to make informed community decisions and resolve community-level sustainability and resilience assessment challenges. It has already been implemented in several countries in a participatory manner.

In conclusion, it may be observed that the world views of civil society organisations of various countries evolve along with the ethos of their respective countries. They naturally reflect the civilisational values and principles of the respective countries more prominently. It may be noted, in this backdrop, that three of the sixteen policy briefs prepared by the Working Groups, namely those on Sewa, Lifestyle for Environment or LiFE, and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam are reflective of the world view as well as the ethos essentially of the civil society organisations from India, the host country. Notwithstanding reservations of CSOs of some other countries, briefs on these themes have been included in this policy pack with a view to generating a larger conversation in the larger interest of the global community.



Special Committee on Financial Issues

Making Finance Work for People and Planet

A sustained recovery from the multidimensional crises experienced by nations across the world today will require financial and economic systems that are strongly aligned to solving its core issues meaningfully. The creation and smooth running of state-supported machineries and global economic processes that can achieve just, equitable growth, and sustainable development for its people while also caring for its natural heritage and contributing to the sustenance of our planetary ecosystem, is instrumental to achieving the goal of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam. This will require fundamental changes to the roles and functions that financial capital and the global financial architecture perform in the lives of the planet's citizens and other living beings.

The C20 calls upon the G20 to place an urgent need, in these conditions, to rethink the global debt architecture and to create and support better and new mechanisms that can help in fair and effective sovereign debt restructuring. In addition, the G20 should develop ways to support the expansion of fiscal space to allow for countries to maintain social protections and invest in resources that may limit the multiple overlapping emergencies such as climate change, public health inadequacies and growing inequality.

C20 demands the democratization of global tax governance under the auspices of the United Nations instead of the OECD so that all state voices can be incorporated when formulating international decisions. International tax cooperation must be under a coherent institutional and normative framework. At the domestic level, the excessive concentration of wealth in the hands of a few individuals or households can lead to negative consequences for social and economic well-being. A wealth tax is needed to ensure the principle of equity and/or distributive justice and the G20 nations can take the lead in implementing this.

The G20 must call on MDBs to update their mission, incentives, and operational approaches, in order to

better address global challenges, reduce poverty and achieve SDGs. C20 calls for G20 nation governments to focus on all SDGs through their national strategies, without cherry-picking some SDGs over others.

CSO must be co-opted as serious economic actors with non-trivial decision-making powers across all stages of implementation of the SDG Agenda by MDBs and national governments. G20 nations must also focus on the crux of the issue with the private sector, which is to have industries pay for negative externalities that bring serious harm to people and planet.

C20 calls for national strategies that support individuals and households in their own legitimate entrepreneurial journeys, through the creation of state-supported mechanisms that provide for a dignified exit from unsustainable debt. This is an innovative welfare benefit the state can offer.

Through the above mechanisms, the C20 calls for a dramatic shift away from economic growth that uses people and the planet as extractable resources, to a global “reprogramming of our economies to work for its people and the planet”.

A. Sovereign Debt Restructuring and Development

Emerging Markets and Developing Countries (EMDCs) now have worryingly high debt vulnerabilities both in absolute terms and relative to pre-pandemic levels. More than two thirds of the world are either at high risk or already in debt distress, while 25% of middle-income countries, which host the majority of the extreme poor, are at high risk of fiscal crisis. Global inflation over the last two years has prompted advanced economy central banks to steeply increase interest rates. The tightening financial conditions worldwide increases borrowing costs for EMDCs. Dollar-denominated debt that dominates private corporate sector international borrowing is set to aggravate debt-added pressure on developing economies.

A significant number of sovereign debt restructurings are expected. However, current mechanisms are ill-equipped to be effective and have no predictable legal and institutional framework; they are a composite of conventions that have evolved over the years. Given the evolution of capital markets and new official bilateral creditors, these practices are under further stress.

There has also been virtually no progress over the last seven years in the process of establishing an international statutory mechanism for sovereign debt restructuring. The Common Framework for Debt Treatment (CF) did not conclude a single restructuring in the first one and a half years of its existence.

The G20 is in a place to push for new global rules in this regard. As countries, especially EMDCs brace to deal with the overwhelming changes in store for them, there is a need to extend provisions available under the CF and for this to be more effective. These include debt cancellation and debt standstills during renegotiations, resolving inter-creditor relationships and their management, adopting contingent clauses in bond issuances and also the issuance of GDP indexed bonds. Many of these mechanisms have built-in speed breakers for the purpose and are very useful to have during downturns.

The debt sustainability analysis of the IMF has been observed to be too optimistic, seriously underestimating the possibilities of shocks that will

further undermine the ability to repay and therefore demanding much quicker and sharper repayment schedules. There is a profound need to rethink the assumptions underlying these and to make a broader set of criteria relevant (like concessions for policies promoting human rights, and climate change investment).

Finally, there is the need for expanding fiscal space, even with the kinds of limitations imposed by debt restructuring. The G20 can support re-channeling Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) for this and in the current circumstances, not make them overly restrictive in terms of conditionality.

Recommendations

Several additions to the current framework must be undertaken and we call upon the G20 to reflect these.

1. Maximize the flexibilities afforded by the Common Framework to allow for effective and fair resolutions.
2. Make progress towards a truly effective global sovereign debt resolution authority that can solve some of the intransigent problems in the current scenario. Such a mechanism must have statutory powers.
3. Improve debt sustainability analytic criteria to be more realistic and to take into account positive policy choices, for example as the UN notes the possibility of undertaking debt-for-climate swaps.
4. Expand the use of useful instruments such as state-contingent bonds and collective action clauses that resolve the problem of hold-up.
5. Expand the use of SDRs and effective recycling as well as new forms of concessional finance to support stressed EMDCs.

B. Fair Taxation for Improving the Social Contract

The rise of economic globalization through digitization of the financial system poses a significant challenge to closing the SDG financing gap for many countries that are also trying to manage fiscal imbalances due to rising public debt, increasing healthcare and pension costs, and other long-term liabilities. This systematically harms developing countries and Least Developed Countries (LDCs) by eroding their tax base, because the current global financial structure and system allows for tax avoidance and evasion. Tax avoidance and evasion undermines the ability of all countries to invest in sustainable development. Illicit financial flows contribute to worsening inequality and equity, both within and between countries.

Global profit shifting has not declined since 2015, a year prior to the implementation of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) Initiative

by the OECD. Shifted profits grew at the same pace as multinational profits. As multinational profits grew by 52% in nominal terms (compared to 17% for global GDP), the absolute amount of profits shifted to tax havens increased by slightly more than 52%. BEPS has been ineffective in reducing the fraction of multinational profit shifted to tax havens each year even if it might have stopped the growth of this fraction. The current OECD/G20 plan and its Pillars 1 and 2 suggestions are tragically insufficient to stop the ongoing wealth transfer—measured in lost tax revenues—from poor to rich countries, where the digital corporations are based. These Pillars do not address emerging nations' incapacity to collect substantial tax revenues from digital businesses that operate there and generate enormous profits while avoiding paying taxes and out-competing domestic tax-paying businesses.



The C20 has urged for the establishment of international tax cooperation for a strong globally coherent tax system under the auspices of the UN, rather than under the G20, and for modalities of the inter-governmental tax body to be designed in an inclusive, fair, transparent manner. It must be structured to provide a substantial solution that sets taxing rights between governments based on an agreed formula in a system that is supplemented by a minimum effective corporate tax rate.

Globally, the top 10% wealthiest captures more than 55% of total household wealth, compared with below 5% captured by the bottom 50%. Such inequalities can also be seen between high and low CO₂ emitters in low-income, middle-income and rich countries. By reducing

the concentration of wealth and promoting a more even distribution of resources, a wealth tax can help ensure that resources are invested in productive activities that benefit the broader economy and generate long-term sustainable growth, rather than be channeled towards personal consumption. This can help reduce the gap between rich and poor and promote a more equitable distribution of wealth. A modest progressive wealth tax on global multimillionaires would yield significant revenue gains. Given the large volume of wealth concentration, a 1% effective wealth tax rate can generate 1.6% of global incomes and could be reinvested in education, health, and the energy transition. This can help fund programs such as in education healthcare and social security, which are important SDGs.

Recommendations

1. The G20 must support the creation of an effective intergovernmental tax body under the UN and this is to be accompanied by the adoption of the latest UN Tax Convention.
2. The G20 must demand country-level reporting by multinational corporations to be made public as articulated in the Global Reporting Initiative, including reporting of beneficial ownership, so that all countries where the corporation has its activities in, are able to access information. All countries and particularly LMICs need to benefit from automatic information exchange.
3. Establish a multi-jurisdictional tax framework.
4. The G20 must promote the creation of a wealth tax by, as an example, implementing it domestically in their countries, to create a more equitable distribution of wealth and to raise state revenue for public services and infrastructure, which are critical for social and economic development.
5. The G20 must enhance the involvement of civil society organizations in tax matter decision-making processes.



C. Financing for Sustainable Development

The financing gap to reach the SDGs in developing countries after the pandemic increased by 56%, requiring investments worth USD 4.2 trillion per year in order to achieve the SDGs for all by 2030. In order to catch up with the ambitions of the 2030 Agenda and to close the widening financing divide, it is time that international finance architecture is explicitly required to be aligned with all aspects of the SDGs so that all financing flows can become aligned with them.

While there have been several calls requiring concerted efforts on the part of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) and allied institutions to bring in the SDGs into their board-level strategy-setting and evaluation mechanisms, the World Bank has taken a first step in this direction by acknowledging the need to evolve its mission to strengthen development impact in its 2023 Roadmap.

While SDGs are universal in that they are accepted by all and applicable to all, the UN states that policy choices will be country-specific, tied to national

priorities laid out in their sustainable development plans. For truly equitable growth and sustainable development, all SDGs will need to be accorded equal importance by every nation. The importance that a government accords to an SDG is not to be measured merely by the quantum of national budgets that get allocated to it but by the efforts invested towards devising a combination of policy tools and interventions that can help to credibly progress on the targets for each SDG. Further, the Indicator 17.14.1 requires countries to have mechanisms in place to enhance policy coherence of sustainable development because the SDGs are interdependent and indivisible and impacts on one SDG will have non-linear impacts on other SDGs.

The UN Financing for Sustainable Development Report 2023 alludes to the need for more comprehensive pricing of negative externalities and for charging it to domestic and international private businesses, but stops short of suggesting a roadmap towards achieving this, not just for carbon emissions but also for a variety

of other unpriced resources such as water, fossil fuels and food, besides the more apparent negative externalities that certain industries give rise to such as the sugar-based industries causing obesity, tobacco-based industries causing cancers, fossil fuel-powered automobiles causing air pollution and so on.

It would be impossible to achieve the 2030 Agenda without civil society organisations (CSOs); they are the only non-state non-profit-seeking stakeholder involved. Indeed, many CSOs continue contributing to SDGs without even being aware of them. But the only place within the SDGs that CSOs find recognition is in the SDG target 17.17 and its single Indicator is woefully inadequate to capture the essence of the Target. CSOs have not been co-opted as an equal stakeholder with decision-making powers, this holds true irrespective of the level of intervention or the stakeholder under question.

The UN General Assembly Resolution on April 18, 2023 (A/77/L.60) is a first

of many concerted steps needed to recognize the Social and Solidarity Economy (SSE) in its important role in achieving the SDGs for the world. It encourages UN member countries to promote and implement national, local and regional strategies, policies and programs for supporting and enhancing the SSE, develop specific legal frameworks, and innovate financial instruments for it. A clear articulation of the functions that CSOs perform in achieving SDGs is needed to drive SDG Target 17.17 as well as to have them occupy a 'seat at the table' as declared by the Global Partnership for Effective Development Cooperation (GPEDC) in December 2022. Past articulations of the role of CSOs such as by the World Economic Forum and the Busan Partnership Agreement 2011 provide guidance in this regard. An expanded role for CSOs has already been articulated by the World Economic Forum that go beyond that of service provider to include roles such as experts, capacity builders, incubators, representatives, citizenship champions, solidarity supporters, and definers of standards.

Recommendations

1. The G20 must call on MDBs to update their mission, incentives, and operational approaches, in order to better address global challenges, reduce poverty and achieve SDGs. This includes a significant scale-up of MDB financing including through better and expanded use of callable capital and other forms of guarantees, the development of new concessional tools and greater mobilization of private capital.
2. The G20 must support the development of estimation tools to cost for negative externalities such as air and water pollution and the obesity epidemic, and introduce taxes directly on businesses and industries that profit from activities that create these externalities. As much as possible, these tools must avoid providing easy options to offset these costs through the trading of financial instruments, and instead, rely on directly costing these in by the industry so that the true costs are revealed to consumers, and profiteering that makes people and planet worse off can be checked.
3. All G20 nations must, through demonstration, devise and implement national strategies for each and every SDG (and their targets). While Governments must continue to exercise their wisdom and judgement, depending on each nation's unique economic, cultural, environmental and social imperatives, they are best placed to decide, and place in their public domain, an articulation of which combination of policy tools they consider appropriate for each SDG, why, and where more public spending is warranted, and where private capital can be relied upon, wholly or in combination with concessional and public financing.

4. For the private sector, scaling up and mandating corporate sustainability related disclosures across all SDGs rather than selecting the easiest SDGs and related targets to report on, can have multiple benefits in avoiding 'cherry picking' and driving corporate investment decisions towards all sustainability goals as well as in aiding the fight against SDG-washing.
5. G20 nations must establish a 'seat at the table' for CSOs in the global strategy for SDGs and accelerate their progress towards the UN resolution on the SSE. A simple

way to articulate the functions for CSOs in achieving the 2030 Agenda, adopted from a Technical Paper of UNDESA, is in a) Implementation via regulation (as watchdogs), b) Representation (as voice for people, especially those 'left behind'), and c) Realisation of sustainable development outcomes through service delivery.



D. Humane Mechanisms for Discharge of Personal and Enterprise Debt

The tremendous push for financial inclusion has been led much by credit inclusion targeted towards MSMEs, a majority of whom are unincorporated, and households. However, unlike informal debt, formal debt creates many challenges for MSMEs. Contractual terms will likely overlap personal and business assets. Any inability to repay would thus, often impact not just the business, but the personal assets and lives of borrowers, if the lenders were to initiate enforcement proceedings and create barriers in accessing credit and other financial services, but also negatively impact the borrower's wellness. The environment that a country provides to its enterprises, to dream, innovate, clinch opportunities, solve problems and generate value, will determine the growth trajectories of many promising enterprises and start-ups. One determinant that seldom gets attention is the way failure of the enterprise is treated and whether society victimises the owners of such enterprises or supports them in restarting economic life in other ways.

Personal insolvency mechanisms for individuals, households and

self-proprietorship and partnership enterprises (with unlimited liability in design, comprising a majority of enterprises in developing countries) are distinct from corporate insolvency and bankruptcy mechanisms because of the absence of a separate legal existence as is in the case of corporates. Government policies should distinguish inability to repay debt from unwillingness to pay and seek to 'forgive the unfortunate'. A humane statutory mechanism for the restructuring or discharge of debt is a crucial instrument through which borrower enterprises and households must be allowed to seek refuge. This will have twin benefits. One, it will help to reduce the burden on governments to undertake ad-hoc loan waivers and for providing sovereign guarantees as a protection mechanism when domestic household sector and MSME debt becomes too much. Two, and more importantly, individuals and households that rely on their own entrepreneurial abilities to support themselves will be able to find a dignified exit in order to start afresh after an event of legitimate failure.



Recommendations

1. Best practices for how developing nations can build these mechanisms is the need of the hour and the G20 can spearhead the creation of such a best practices endeavour. The best practices must offer high-level yet clear guidance to countries on designing principles and procedural aspects that make personal insolvency accessible, simpler than its corporate counterpart, and cost-effective while being efficient and impactful. This is an innovative welfare benefit the state can offer. An overwhelming majority of citizens in developing nations can benefit from this policy and contribute to their nation's economic activity.
2. Consideration should be given to designing policies that encourage creation of a 'safe to fail' ecosystem in countries where citizens perceive failure resulting from the inability to repay debt as a stigmatising failure. Decentralising approaches can result in enhanced ownership across varying cultural dynamics and can lead to greater impact.

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- ◆ In 2020, Argentina used the new Collective Action Clauses (CACs) to restructure its debt, improve inter-creditor coordination and do away to a large extent with the hold-up problem associated with Vulture Funds. The terms of borrowing also saw serious principal reduction and increased average maturity of debt, all of which are critical to a more timely and orderly restructuring.
- ◆ India's Corporate and Social Responsibility (CSR) regulations which were put into place by the Ministry of Corporate Affairs in 2013 mandates companies above a certain size in terms of revenue/profit to invest 2% of their annual net profits into CSR projects. Research suggests that such a mandate has been able to drive corporate investments in social sectors such as education, health, rural development, eradicating poverty and hunger, and environmental sustainability, since its enforcement.
- ◆ The Securities and Exchanges Board of India (SEBI) is putting in place a Social Stock Exchange platform where CSOs can 'list' their securities, and report on their financial, governance. and impact measures, and in doing so, build credibility through which scaled up access to funding through instruments such as grants / Zero Coupon Zero Principal (ZCZP) bonds and equity can be enabled. Such an approach also envisages an ecosystem of actors, including independent Social Auditors who would audit, among others, the social impact claims made by such entities.

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Sustainable & Resilient Communities

Climate, Environment and Net Zero Targets

The WG acknowledges that the key to meeting the challenges facing the global community is the development of integrated solutions through international agreements, multilateral collaborations and transboundary cooperation for systemic transformations, to enable good governance, sustainable finance and circular economy.

Drawing inspiration from “Lokah Samastah Sukhino Bhavantu” meaning may all the beings in all the worlds become happy, the working group recognizes the fundamental interconnectedness and interdependence of all beings and all resources on earth. Thus, resolves to invoke the innate compassion arising from this universal interconnectedness in every individual.

The detrimental impacts of climate change makes it imperative that we act, unitedly, equitably, inclusively, and justly, to protect the people and planet earth. The C20 Working Group on Sustainable and Resilient Communities (SRC) - Climate, Environment and Net Zero Targets proposes policy recommendations to mitigate these global challenges.

The working group has outlined a set of transformative measures that will lead to sustainable and resilient

communities through more nuanced and informed developmental pathways, based on greater equity, justice, and inclusivity. The policy recommendations from the four sub-themes namely, Climate Resilience and Social Justice, Environmental Sustainability, Net Zero Emission Management and Compassion driven Approaches to Sustainable and Resilient Communities have been cumulatively reviewed and curated. The following overarching categories of recommendations have emerged:

- ◆ C20 urges G20 to ensure implementation pathways for efficiency that are compassion driven and engage all sections of the population, creating targeted investment opportunities, as well as co-developing adaptation metrics, and standards across sectors to guide investment decisions. Localised implementation approaches need to be in place considering the sustainability factors.
- ◆ G20 needs to incentivize transparent and effective public-private and social sector partnerships for sharing expertise, knowledge, experiences, local context specific best practices and resources, to enhance innovations and sustain actions.
- ◆ G20 countries should support their education systems to develop and implement curriculum and training modules specific to climate change and resilience, net zero emission targets, biodiversity conservation and ecosystem restoration & degradation, at primary, secondary and tertiary level. Along with providing affordable, equitable and quality education, community specific capacity development programs need to be developed to create community wise champions.

Climate Resilience and Social Justice

A. Enhancing Climate Resilience and Disaster Management

As per United Nations Disaster Risk Reduction, (UNDRR) an effective early warning is capable of saving many lives and reducing damage by 30% if activated 24 hours before the event. However, today, one-third of the world's population, mainly in the least developed countries, is still not covered by early warning systems. Furthermore, as the impacts of climate change

accelerate, investments in climate resilient infrastructure must be equally prioritised to prevent deaths, reduce the lock-in of climate vulnerability, and avoid economic losses in the decades to come. The OECD estimates that USD 6.9 trillion worth of infrastructure investments would be needed annually by 2030 to meet the sustainable development goals.

Recommendations

- ◆ G20 must enhance regional climate resilience and disaster management capabilities in developing and implementing early-warning systems for cascading events such as rainfall, landslides, floods etc. through reflection on approaches that are gender-equitable and support vulnerable and marginalised sections of the community.
- ◆ C20 recommends to foster and support the transition of agro-systems into agroecology practices, and to prevent conflicts on the use of water for agriculture and to build water resilience.
- ◆ Member countries should develop incentives and policies to encourage private sector investments in climate-resilient infrastructure and technologies that integrate indigenous knowledge and experiences.
- ◆ G20 must prioritise integrity and good governance that encompasses promoting anti-corruption measures, strengthening legal frameworks, ensuring inclusive decision-making processes, and supporting the capacity building in all community scale resilience policies and programs.

B. Democratising climate change efforts through climate-sensitive planning for climate-induced displacement

According to UNHCR, hazards resulting from the increasing intensity and frequency of extreme weather events, such as abnormally heavy rainfall, prolonged droughts, desertification, environmental degradation, or sea-level rise and cyclones are already causing an average of more than 20 million people

to leave their homes and move to other areas in their countries each year. It is estimated that 80 percent of people displaced by climate change are women, according to UNEP. When women are displaced, they are at greater risk of violence, including sexual violence.

Recommendations

- ◆ G20 must ensure that gender mainstreaming is integrated into policies, programs, multi-level governance & administrative systems and training for capacity building of those impacted by climate-induced displacement and migration.
- ◆ C20 urges G20 to adopt a climate-sensitive planning dimension to peacekeeping, post-conflict reconstruction, and development efforts to prevent any relapse to armed conflicts in fragile communities. Community level training to develop comprehensive short term strategies, while implementing necessary schemes to facilitate their effective implementation.
- ◆ C20 urges member countries to develop a strategy to manage the forecasted displacement of population affected by climate related disasters. States need to derive policies and interventions for earmarking the camps for settlement, supply chain pathways for managing resources for non-permanent resettlement.

C. Climate Finance for Inclusive and Effective Climate Action

The World Bank Group delivered a record \$31.7 billion in fiscal year 2022 (FY22) to help countries address climate change. This is a 19% increase from the \$26.6 billion all-time high in financing reached in the previous fiscal year.

However, the current climate finance architecture is distributed unevenly and inefficiently especially in economies that are developing and most vulnerable to climate change.

Recommendations

- ◆ G20 should establish national policies that promote collaboration between the public, private, and nonprofit sectors in climate finance and foster partnerships to enhance the breadth and effectiveness of climate actions.
- ◆ Governments should increase emergency funding mechanisms, make it easily accessible and provide immediate and timely support to meet the needs of the most vulnerable communities affected by climate-related disasters.
- ◆ Member countries should upscale specific financing for mitigation and adaptation for climate change, and ensure inclusivity and social justice in the allocation and distribution of funds effectively.
- ◆ G20 must consider measures to integrate climate risk assessments and integrate community scale resilience building strategies into funding and project implementation, decision making processes across all levels and sectors to help governments identify potential trade-offs and synergies between climate goals and other development objectives.
- ◆ G20 must develop country specific climate adaptation metrics and standards to guide investment decisions and incentivize proactive community based mitigation/adaptation actions.

Environmental Sustainability

A. Ensuring Rights, Access, and Sustainability for Food Security

According to the statistics released by WPF, more than 345 million people are facing high levels of food insecurity in 2023 – more than double the number in 2020. This constitutes a staggering rise of 200 million people compared to pre-COVID-19 pandemic levels. More than 900,000 people worldwide are fighting to survive in catastrophic hunger/one step away from famine. This is ten times more than five years ago, an alarmingly rapid increase.



Recommendations

- ◆ The G20 must ensure that individuals have the rights and access to safe, nutritious, and culturally appropriate food, and that food systems are sustainable and resilient to climate change. Member countries need to adopt innovative food engineering technologies as well as promote the integration of the traditional practices like consumption of ayurvedic leaves and other herbs into their lifestyle.
- ◆ G20 countries need to promote sustainable food consumption patterns and awareness campaigns to bring in a major shift in resource consumption and food waste generation. Based on the food intake and the water consumed at community level, people need to be made aware of sustainable practices according to resource availability and changing climate patterns.

- ◆ G20 must implement environmental labelling and taxing of food products that are environmentally damaging, to incentivize consumers to make more responsible and sustainable food choices, as well as incentive pricing for the less-impacting food products in order to incentivize consumers to make more responsible and sustainable food choices.
- ◆ C20 recommends implementing a scheme where every food packet includes information on the man hours involved, the number of individuals in the supply chain, resources utilised, thereby fostering a gratitude-based approach that promotes reduced consumption and wastage.

B. Climate-Resilient Agriculture: Promoting Sustainable Practices & Knowledge Transfer

Climate change impacts food security, particularly in developing nations. According to the World Bank, the growing impact of climate change could further cut crop yields, especially in the world's most food-insecure regions. Our food systems are also responsible for about 30% of greenhouse gas emissions. Current food systems also threaten the health of people and the planet and generate unsustainable levels of pollution and waste. A third of global food production is either lost or wasted. Food insecurity worsens nutrition, causing malnutrition, undernutrition, and obesity. Roughly 3 billion people lack access to a healthy diet.



Recommendations

- ◆ C20 urges G20 to promote dynamic management of crop diversity and diversity-based strategies to ensure nutritional needs of the community and for more sustainable agro-ecosystems by emphasising bottom-up approaches engaging with local farmer networks in the perspective of agroecological approach.
 - ◆ Member nations need to enhance global investment to promote sustainable agricultural practices. Training and educational programs need to be implemented to raise awareness among rural communities about the need for ecosystem restoration, environmental shifts and the impacts of climate change.
- Schemes need to be accompanied by incentives such as subsidies, tax exemptions, and low-interest loans to farmers to adopt such practices.
- ◆ C20 recommends to raise community awareness about nutrition requirements through schemes and foster a connection between agricultural practices and food grain production.
 - ◆ C20 calls for the adoption and enforcement of robust regulations, limiting pesticide usage to permissible levels, in the agricultural sector to safeguard the well-being of individuals and the environment.



C. Prioritising Ecosystem Restoration, Biodiversity Protection, Sustainable Water Governance, and Coastal Conservation

The world is currently grappling with significant challenges in environmental sustainability across sectors.

Biodiversity loss is accelerating and the International Union for Conservation of Nature has listed a staggering 32,000 species listed as threatened, and the WWF has documented a distressing

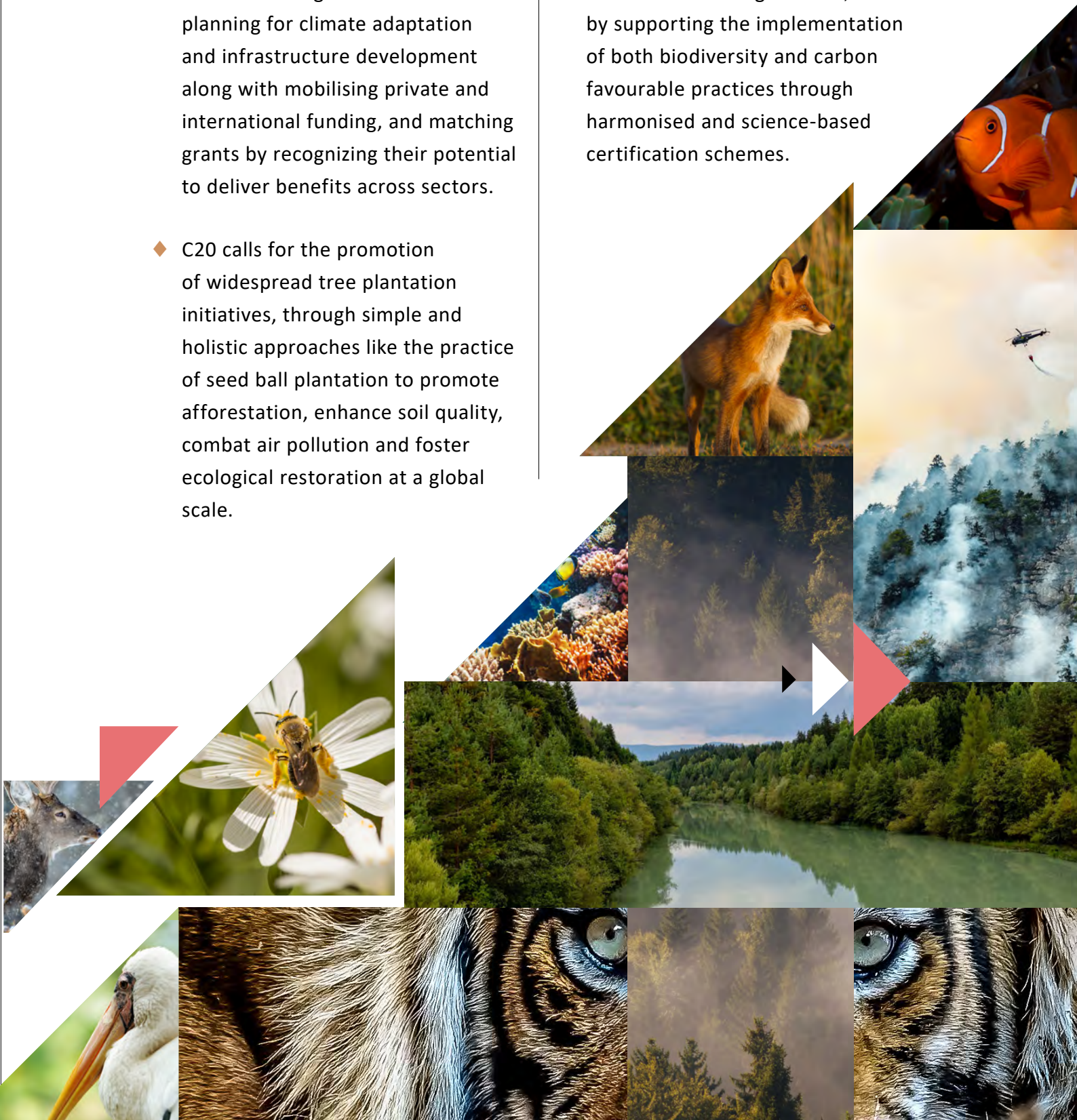
68% decline in vertebrate populations since 1970. Water scarcity is affecting billions worldwide, as the UN estimates that 2.2 billion people lack access to safe drinking water. Marine ecosystems are under grave threat, with WWF reporting that 90% of global fish stocks are either fully exploited or overfished.

Recommendations

- ◆ C20 recommends the protection of important biodiversity hotspots, ecosystems and the livelihoods by addressing the challenges of biodiversity loss and the spread of invasive species through conservation of native species and promotion of ecovillages through special schemes and funding mechanisms.
- ◆ G20 must establish strong water governance frameworks that consider climate change, ensuring sustainable and high-quality water availability. Legislation, monitoring,

and enforcement mechanisms should be implemented, along with promoting water-efficient practices at the community level. Collaboration on integrated water management, climate-resilient infrastructure, and leveraging wastewater for economic growth is crucial. Capacity building for community water champions, along with the allocation of specific schemes and funding, are necessary. Furthermore, the creation of certification and ranking systems for water-wise communities should be prioritised.

- ◆ C20 recommends the stricter enforcement of coastal protection regulations and policies to safeguard marine resources, ecosystems, and biodiversity. Nature based solutions should be integrated into territorial planning for climate adaptation and infrastructure development along with mobilising private and international funding, and matching grants by recognizing their potential to deliver benefits across sectors.
- ◆ C20 calls for the promotion of widespread tree plantation initiatives, through simple and holistic approaches like the practice of seed ball plantation to promote afforestation, enhance soil quality, combat air pollution and foster ecological restoration at a global scale.
- ◆ C20 recommends to better protect forest ecosystems in order to secure in-situ carbon sequestration and biodiversity, by labelling new protected areas in line with Montreal COP15 agreement, and by supporting the implementation of both biodiversity and carbon favourable practices through harmonised and science-based certification schemes.



Net Zero Emissions Management

Despite strong emphasis on climate change, environmental sustainability and net-zero emissions, G20 still accounts for over 77% of greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions. The transition to net-zero is woefully inadequate, mostly techno-solutions-focused, poorly-funded, slow, and unsustainable. It has already exacerbated crises of displacement and exploitation of vulnerable communities, caused

loss of livelihoods, and generated non-recyclable waste. There is poor awareness and understanding of the crisis at hand, solutions and their feasibility, the urgency for sustainable solutions, the magnitude of financing and monitoring needed for the same. In all these aspects, maladaptation is arising as the most significant challenge in transition to net-zero emissions.

Recommendations

A. Lifestyle Changes & Demand Reduction

G20 nations must commit to promoting sustainable lifestyles focused on reducing the quantum of residual emissions that have to be balanced, by promoting solutions that bridge socio-behavioural, infrastructural, and technological domains. C20 calls for G20 nations to:

- ◆ Redesign communities, urban form, and infrastructure to drastically reduce induced GHG emissions.
- ◆ Introduce policy incentives for high-emission individuals, organisations,

enterprises and communities to reduce consumption and modify behaviour and choices to achieve lower per capita resource footprints while ensuring wellbeing.



- ◆ Promote redesign of living spaces
 - enhance efficiency in use of floor space, increase daylighting and passive thermal management, use only smart appliances, minimise materials in construction.
- ◆ Transformatively reduce total geographical distances travelled by individuals and goods - minimise travel for work, promote teleworking and shared pooled mobility, promote city- and state-level rail transport powered by renewables, incentivise decentralised, coupled production-consumption infrastructures, systems and provisioning of services.
- ◆ Incentivize transitions to energy, food, water, and resource self-sufficiency - on-site renewables and micro-grids, household-level food production, resource sharing, life-enhanced and efficient products, reuse and recycling, incentivize shift to plant-based diet.
- ◆ Design and promote energy, emissions, and resource-efficient management of electronic devices.

B. Circular Economy

C20 urges G20 to mandate the use of circular economy principles in designing, financing and implementation of policies for transitions to net zero emissions by:

- ◆ Accelerating time-bound planning, funding and development of solutions for recycling, reuse and valorisation of spent waste arising from the technologies being adopted at global scale.
- ◆ Mandating decentralised, affordable, efficient and clean recycling, reuse and valorisation solutions as the necessary condition for a technology to be deemed sustainable.
- ◆ Promoting grassroots and frugal innovations for sustainable emissions reductions.

C. Deep Decarbonization

G20 must accelerate deep decarbonization initiatives across all sectors to achieve tangible national and global targets for net zero emissions within 2050. C20 calls for G20 nations to:

- ◆ Immediately cease subsidies for fossil fuels.
- ◆ Transparently determine and commit to peaks and timelines in emissions.
- ◆ Incentivise adoption of energy-efficient appliances and solutions across sectors and value chains.
- ◆ Mandate time-bound, renewables-powered electrification of energy/thermal sources in industries and phasing out of coal & fossil fuels.
- ◆ Mandate time-bound transition to sustainable feedstock for hard-to-abate chemical industries.
- ◆ Design, implement and monitor solutions to prevent lock-in emissions in future sectoral growth.
- ◆ Effectively monitor and eliminate greenwashing, green colonialism, and monoculture plantations for carbon capture.



Compassion Driven Approaches to Sustainable and Resilient Communities

The world is witnessing an alarming rise in violence against both humanity and the environment. Interpersonal violence affects millions of people, with a staggering number of annual fatalities globally. While efforts are being made to address it, they alone are inadequate to restore peace and harmony in society and nature. People experience two types of poverty in this world -

poverty of food, clothing and shelter and poverty of love and compassion. Compassion is the most important factor that can transform lives. If we take this first step courageously, without fear, then all of our decisions and subsequent actions and their results will have a special beauty, spontaneity and power.

Recommendations

A. Fostering Peace, Harmony, by integrating Cultural Values and Rediscovering Local Traditions

- ◆ The G20 needs to prioritise promoting a culture of peace, harmony with nature, and education for building sustainable and resilient communities, emphasising human, cultural, and spiritual values for collective flourishing and well-being, and integrate them effectively into all public policies in a trans-sectoral manner.
- ◆ G20 must develop and implement experiential learning and hands own approaches at schools and universities for promoting a culture of peace and harmony with nature
- ◆ Member countries need to develop and implement strategies to rediscover local traditions, map them with respect to fostering peace, harmony and ecosystem restoration. Develop scalable models to train the future generation in utilising local traditions.

- ◆ G20 should establish schemes that will motivate multinational corporations and business enterprises to adopt rural enclaves and provide support and funding for the development of essential infrastructure such as schools, colleges, hospitals, and small-scale industries.
- ◆ G20 needs to recommend the local universities to adopt the nearby communities to engage, support and work in a participatory manner for identifying existing challenges, developing sustainable and resilient solutions, providing support in availing existing government schemes.
- ◆ C20 recommends prioritising youth empowerment through compassion-driven approaches by engaging young people in decision-making processes with access to quality education, skills training, and opportunities for leadership and entrepreneurship.





B. Compassion as a foundational element in educational curriculum

1. G20 must consider mandating the development of compassion-based educational frameworks that are tailored to local cultural, social, and economic contexts, while ensuring alignment with international standards and global perspectives. Furthermore, a course that teaches compassion and selflessness needs to be developed from kindergarten to grade 12 and higher education.
2. Member countries need to develop training materials and interventions tailored for teachers and parents, focusing on integrating self-care, resilience, and the cultivation of inner compassion within the learning environment. A mandatory textbook including all aspects of the greatness of selflessness and compassion should be introduced. Furthermore, countries should also invest in designing reliable and valid assessment methods.
3. G20 must prioritise awareness programs that highlight the value of local experience, indigenous knowledge, and social responsibility, aiming to counter the invisibility of these important resources.

Udaaharans

We selected the following best practices to showcase the achievements of high impact projects undertaken by civil society organisations.

1. Unnat Kheti – Children's Investment Fund Foundation

The project, initiated three years ago, aims to promote Low Carbon Agriculture (LCA) and natural farming practices in India. It has successfully trained and supported 18,000 farmers including women. The project has also facilitated market linkages for LCA products, engaged cooperatives and corporations in sustainable sourcing,

and provided research-based support to governments. The outcomes include widespread adoption of natural farming practices, the establishment of natural farming boards in Uttar Pradesh, Gujarat and Madhya Pradesh, and the operationalization of bio-resource production centres run by women Self-Help Groups.



2. SREE (Sustainability & Resilience for Community Engagement & Empowerment) Platform - Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham

The lack of effective measurement, dissemination of information, and dynamic data analytics for community-scale sustainability and resilience assessment poses challenges for community-level decision-making. To address this gap, a technology-based crowd-sourced platform called Sustainability and Resilience for Community Engagement and Empowerment (SREE) has been proposed. Integrated with a mobile application called Empower Community App, this platform enables

bottom-up assessments, knowledge acquisition, and informed decision-making. SREE utilises geo-enabled software and crowdsourced data to measure, map, analyse, and propose recommendations for community-level sustainability and resilience indicators. Implemented in multiple countries, this participatory solution allows for mapping, monitoring, risk assessment, and deriving recommendations for sustainability and resilience at various scales.





River Revival & Water Management

Advancing Sustainability, Stakeholder Engagement, & Ecosystem-Based Solutions

The G20 must come together to urgently tackle the mounting water scarcity and pollution crisis which has the potential to lead to large-scale conflicts and long-term social, ecological and economic disasters.

The C20 2023 Working Group on Revival of Rivers and Water Management emphasizes an ecology-centric approach, stakeholder involvement, and international cooperation to ensure the preservation and proper management of rivers and freshwater bodies. The Working Group focusses on the sub-themes of river rejuvenation, water management and conservation, and disaster management (floods and droughts).

The WG urges the G20 to commit to preserving and sustaining the natural flow and self-purification capacity of rivers. The Working Group has urged governments to exercise stewardship over water resources as a common good which includes obtaining citizens' consent for activities affecting water resources, preventing environmentally unsustainable projects, and ensuring water education in school curricula to promote awareness, conservation, and responsible use of water. States are encouraged to include native, traditional, and indigenous communities and integrating their knowledge and practices.

The G20 is called upon to leverage technology for the identification, management, monitoring, and dissemination of information about water systems. Such data must be made publicly available and accessible to citizens for their active participation in water protection and judicious use. Additionally, the G20 must facilitate technology and know-how transfers for

effective disaster management related to floods and droughts. Exemplary success stories from around the world provide valuable insights. Cross-border knowledge-sharing to help in the replication of best practices among G20 states is needed to prevent climate-induced migration and water conflicts.

The G20 is urged to incorporate environmental factors and ecological sustainability in valuing water resources, including implementing the "polluter pays principle" for accountability on water pollution and ecosystem degradation, the "user pays principle" to ensure that the cost of water usage reflects its full life cycle costs and legally-binding obligations on large-scale users to maintain or restore ecological conditions and prevent short-term economic exploitation.

By implementing these recommendations, the G20 can play a crucial role in restoring and maintaining freshwater availability and avoiding water wars, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

Introduction

Water is the bloodstream of human civilization. The scarcity of clean and pure water threatens the survival of all living beings in the ecosystem. Human activity has steadily reduced the amount of fresh water available. Competing demands for water from agriculture, industry, energy production and basic human consumption intensify the pressure on overground resources and underground reservoirs. A significant proportion of water bodies are contaminated. Dramatic changes in the volume and period of rainfall due to anthropogenic factors have created a water crisis. Large rivers that were once perennial now run practically dry through the year. Other species – plants, animals, birds and even microbial life – are being destroyed with disappearing water habitats. Conditions that create moderate short-term economic gain also consequently risk

medium-to-long term social, ecological, political, and economic disaster.

G20 leaders must come together to urgently address the mounting challenges on our doorsteps. Though water conflicts are not a novel phenomenon, the possibility of large-scale human conflicts due to water scarcity in the very near future is alarming. The question is, what would it take for the G20 to achieve all of this in tandem and with swiftness?

Appeal to the G20 Leadership: There is an urgent need for globally replicable and scalable frameworks built on consensus, combining economic and ecological sustainability, combining indigenous wisdom, sound technology and robust sociological and governance processes to create a water-sustainable future for all.



Working Group Themes

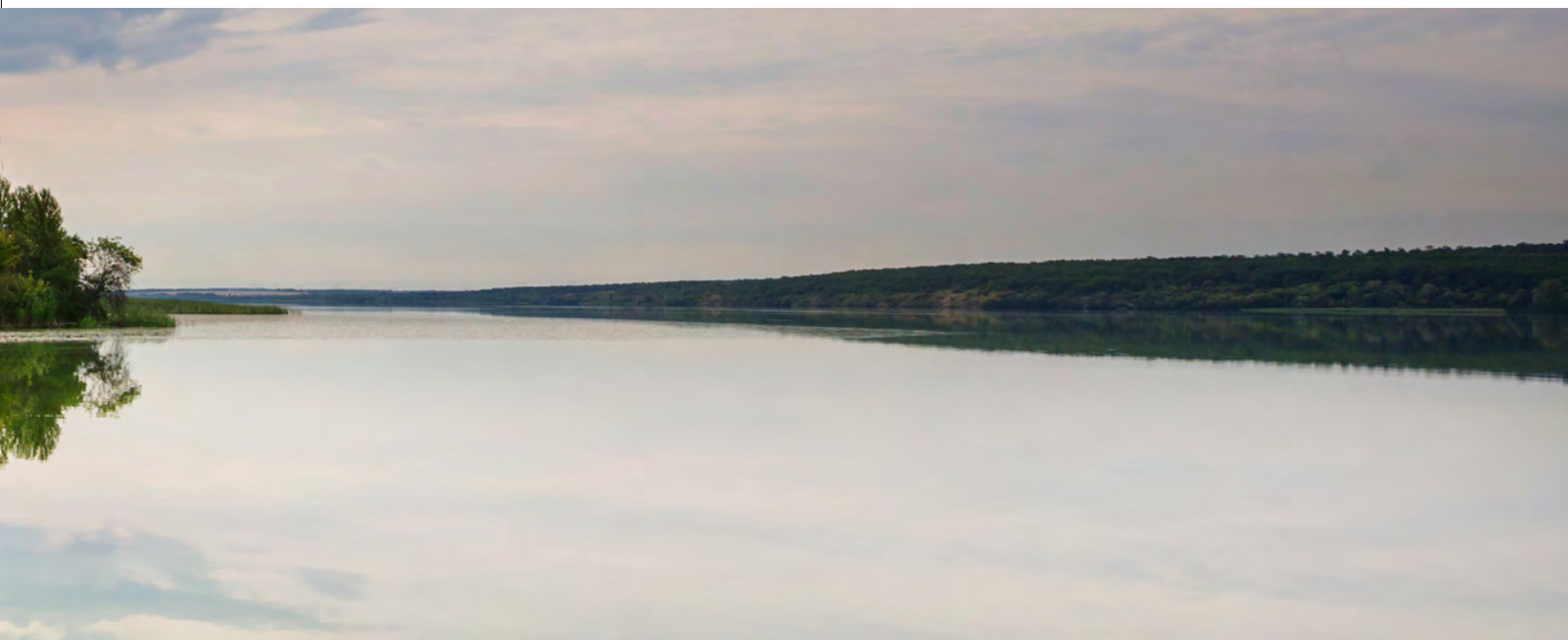
The UN's SDG 6¹-Ensure availability and sustainable management of water and sanitation for all - has six targets of which targets 6.3², 6.4³, 6.5⁴, 6.6⁵ and 6.a⁶ & 6.b⁷ are relevant to this Working Group⁸ on 'Revival of Rivers & Water Management'⁹.

This WG notes that all SDG6 targets show varying levels of achievement so far. Achieving universal coverage by 2030 will require a 6-fold increase in current global progress rates on drinking water. Domestic wastewater trends show limited progress towards halving the proportion of unsafe discharges by 2030, water stress¹⁰ levels show regional variations and indicate a 1.2% increase between 2015-2020. One in two countries lacks effective frameworks for sustainable water management, and one in five river

basins are experiencing above natural fluctuations in surface water in the last five years¹¹. ODA¹² commitments to the water sector have declined since 2017 surfacing a need for alternate finance towards meeting targets. The proportion of countries demonstrating a high level of local community participation in water resources management remains small (<40%)¹³.

The World Bank informs that floods and droughts have increased especially in the last two decades (recording 1.65 billion flood-affected people and 1.43 billion drought-affected people) and more in news since 2021¹⁴.

The European Parliamentary Research Service's 2021 briefing¹⁵ stated that, while there wasn't any standardized definition of "climate refugees" (the



alternate term is “climate migrants”), over 318 million persons had been displaced since 2008 until the date of the document because of climate disasters. Since then, further climate-extreme events, including drought or extreme heatwave conditions, hurricanes/cyclones of growing intensity, irrational rainfall patterns, and flooding have affected wide swathes of the population around the world.

On a longer timescale, the trends of rainfall variation and water scarcity have the potential to have intergenerational impact such as exacerbating poverty, washing out livelihoods, prompting migration and human suffering, and increasing economic costs as climate change becomes more widespread, rapid, and intense¹⁶.

While previously the displacement of people due to climate-related disasters usually happened within a country's borders and was the sole concern of the national government, increasingly populations may seek food, shelter and livelihood across borders. Thus, corrective measures on water security are absolutely essential to avoid

such mass migration and potential international conflicts.

The C20 Working Group on Revival of Rivers and Water Management came together to take stock of sector progress, deliberate on the challenges and propose steps towards creating lasting solutions.

The WG comprised of highly experienced experts in this area, stakeholders, community members, government officials, and CSOs¹⁷.

On the back of discussions on pressing issues of water exploitation, scarcity, encroachments, pollution, privatization and commodification, policy and governance worldwide, the WG contributed insights across 3 sub-themes for ‘Revival of Rivers and Water Management’ including:

1. River Rejuvenation
2. Water Management & Conservation
3. Disaster Management (floods and droughts)

The three sub-themes have been considered by the Working Group on a foundation of tactical, strategic and institutionalizing measures. The sub-themes fit into climate change, the key priority of India's G20 Presidency and

would also help towards accelerating progress on SDGs¹⁸.

To create the policy recommendations, the Working Group has discussed areas including:

1. River Rejuvenation from Origin to Confluence

- Riverine ecosystems and Ecosystem Services
- Forestry interventions including agroforestry, ecotourism and conservation measures
- Watershed management, catchment area treatment and ecological restoration measures

2. Flood mitigation and drought management

- Flood management tactics and strategies in high rainfall and flood prone areas
- Policies, regulations and guidelines for prevention and mitigation of flood and related disasters

3. Role of Community and Multiple Stakeholders

- River basin management: Technology innovations; Community empowerment, youth participation and delegation of power amongst communities
- Traditional knowledge on river flows and its applications in river rejuvenation
- Community-centric Engineering of Water Infrastructure
- Water conservation measures
- Addressing the Commodification of the Water Commons
- Catalysing Broad-based Community Financial Participation in Revival of Rivers
- Catalysing Philanthropic Capital / Private Capital for Nature Based Solutions through outcome-based financing mechanisms

Udaaharans-Exemplary Stories of Success

Exemplary stories or best practices raise awareness of what worked and encourage replicating (or tweaking) practices across G20 countries, challenge conventional practices and develop a shared vision to attain desired outcomes.

A.Revival of Arvari basin, Rajasthan, India:



- ◆ River dried after excess groundwater withdrawal and extraction in 1985.
- ◆ Community mobilised to build structures for water retention and to route rainwater using traditional harvesting systems
- ◆ Achieved increased water level in wells and groundwater recharge due to less extraction.
- ◆ Arvari Parliament formed to establish community-led ownership of the river.

Alignment with WG's policy thrust:

- » Community-driven and decentralized water management
- » Leveraging palaeogeological knowledge

B. Cooperation for sustainable development of the Mekong River Basin System, South-east Asia:

- ◆ World's 12th longest river running through 6 riparian countries.
- ◆ Due to continued regional conflict and geo-political barriers, there were no structures on the Lower Mekong mainstream.
- ◆ The Mekong Agreement was signed amongst the Lower Mekong River Basin States (LMRBS) Cambodia, Laos, Thailand, and Vietnam in 1995 that dealt majorly with water allocation.
- ◆ It led to dam development with cross-border consensus and “to cooperate in a constructive and mutually beneficial manner for sustainable development, utilization, conservation and management of the Mekong River Basin water and related resources.”²¹
- ◆ The Agreement is the outcome of more than 40 years of regional and supra-regional efforts to cooperatively manage the river water/related resources. Each party had distinct issues & the Agreement benefited all by resolving via cooperative development of the LMRB.



Alignment with Working Group's policy thrust:

- » International/cross-border cooperations and management.
- » Ecosystem services
- » Reflects best practice of international river basins to turn Potential Conflicts into Potential Cooperations (PCCP).
- » Eco-centric development model impacting livelihoods/marginalization of people due to dam development.

C. Indian city of Chennai bounces back from Day Zero



- ◆ Excess demand over water supply, damage to catchments, and extreme weather created acute water scarcity.
- ◆ Chennai mandated rainwater harvesting, and actively began recycling waste water (aiming for a target of 75% reuse rate)
- ◆ Networks of nature-based solutions have been created by CSOs, including rainwater harvesting (RWH), vegetation ditches and anaerobic treatment to recharge aquifers.

Alignment with WG's policy thrust:

- » A combination of technological solutions to desalinate water and recover waste water, as well as nature-based solutions
- » Multi-stakeholder alignment between public, CSOs, and government

D. Delivering Change Programme Water Project, 2014, Maharashtra state, India

- ◆ Aimed to assist the Government of Maharashtra (GoM) to deliver a "Water for All by 2019" vision via ensuring adequate & consistent water supply for a Drought Free Maharashtra.

Alignment with Working Group's policy thrust:

- » Leveraging multi-stakeholder and multidisciplinary platforms for consensus-led solutions.
- » Process-oriented (lab-based) approach.

- ◆ 70+ participants; 60+ organizations; 30+ meetings; 32 initiatives developed (water source & conservation, agriculture and domestic & industry); 240+ hours lab effort; 4 months ground-level pre-lab research.
- ◆ Resulted in water sufficient Maharashtra.
- ◆ 7.2 BCM²³ of additional water created. Initiatives designed with potential to increase surface water capture (to 36.35% from 32%); increase ground water levels (to 36.32 BCM from 33.95 BCM); increase irrigation potential to 5.8 Million Ha; and improve water supply to 91 ULBs

Policy Recommendations

Keeping in mind the urgency of the challenges facing humanity, and with the underlying G20 leadership commitments already in place, the WG submits the following recommendations. Many need only conscientious implementation of existing legal and other frameworks, rather than the promulgation of new laws or signing of new agreements.

- ◆ **Governments and people must commit to an ecology-centric approach to maintain the natural, continuous and free flow of rivers and their self- purification capacity; the very definition of a river is that it is a natural flow of water with its own structure, life, and dependent**

life-forms, as different from a canal which is man-made and a bound structure.

- ◆ **The State must exercise stewardship over water resources as a commons and protect them in conjunction with their associated ecological functions, such that:**

1. It respects the rights and relationships of citizens with water and water ecosystems, and ensures their free, prior, and informed consent for any activities on and/or affecting water resources and related ecosystems
2. It prevents projects around riverine systems whose

environmental cost is unreasonable or excessive in comparison to the benefits derived from any part of and/or the whole of those projects

3. It makes age-appropriate water education a mandatory part of the K-12 curriculum, including site visits and interactions with local freshwater bodies, specifically the local sources of domestic water, so as to foster sensitivity, awareness, and a healthy relationship with water and water ecosystems, and promote judicious use, reuse, and conservation of water
4. It undertakes the enactment and implementation of strict pollution prevention laws to keep human generated pollution such as industrial effluents, urban solid waste and effluents, agricultural waste, and any other untreated water generated from human activity from being directly discharged into freshwater bodies

◆ **States must engage multidisciplinary stakeholder groups for ground-up consensus-**

led solutions to reviving rivers and freshwater bodies, including but not limited to:

1. Ensuring participation of native, traditional, & indigenous communities and their practices to benefit from palaeogeological knowledge, tools, and techniques for river restoration and water management
2. Decentralizing river management and river revival projects based on ecological, geographical, morphological, territorial, administrative, and other such related factors as necessary to effectively plan, execute, and monitor strategies suited to each segment along the length of a river and its tributaries
3. Consult and include stakeholders such as NGOs, INGOs, FBOs, corporate bodies, private entrepreneurs, private sector, start-ups, youth, and experts from different fields of humanities, sciences, and finance to develop and implement a holistic framework for water management and river revival.

4. Promote regular dialogues between the various stakeholders mentioned above to align interests, onboarding, removing roadblocks, identifying actionable steps for smooth execution, and monitoring and measuring the effectiveness of projects undertaken for the revival and management of water resources

◆ **The G20 must lead in leveraging technology to explore, document, manage, implement, monitor and disseminate information about water systems, such that:**

1. All water bodies are identified, demarcated, notified, managed, and monitored, the data of which

is made publicly available and accessible for the knowledge and perusal of citizens to get involved in the protection and judicious use of water and water systems

Technology innovation and intervention is facilitated for disaster management (floods and droughts)

◆ **G20 states must strengthen cross-border agreements and cooperation to prevent climate migration, prevent water conflicts and water wars**

◆ **G20 must show leadership in including environmental factors and ecological sustainability in**

the correct valuation of water resources and their services based on the following frameworks:

1. “Polluter pays”, where those who cause water pollution and ecosystem degradation shall bear the costs of restoring and compensating for any harm caused to human health and/or the environment
2. “User pays”, such that usage of water shall be at cost based on the full life cycle of costs of extraction, provision, disposal, and replacement of the water resource
3. Legally-binding obligations on large-scale users to ensure that ecological conditions of water resources and their ecosystem services are maintained (or to be restored, if degraded), keeping in mind that the water commons are often exploited for short-term economic gains by private or public parties without paying heed to the long term ecological, social or even economic degradation being caused.
4. Since rivers and freshwater bodies may cross jurisdictions and even national boundaries, the G20 needs to create multilateral governance frameworks and mechanisms to define these principles and enforce the effects.

The G20 must initiate an integrated approach imbining consensus and pledges, sustainability, and robust processes using both technical and financial resources. The process framework would support the validation of what works and what doesn't and take solutions to countries accordingly. This approach will be governed by the following guiding principles:

- ◆ Make the solution scalable, replicable, and adaptable to the local context
 - ◆ Ensure participation and consensus of all stakeholders involved, especially the public at large, along with Civil Society Organizations,
- Government, private and other affected agencies
 - ◆ Identify entry points for short-term and long-term action plans
 - ◆ Ensure availability of sustainable financing for implementing plans.

Conclusion

Attention has been accorded to rivers and water in the past G20 summits. An enhanced focus under the ongoing G20 Presidency is encouraging. No discussion on climate change is complete without including water as “water is the leverage for best climate impact”, hence to a large extent SDGs 13 and 6 should go hand-in-hand in policy, planning, and execution.

Cross-border cooperation, with process-orientated methodology and contextualization of exemplary stories of success can produce replicable and scalable impact projects across G20 countries. It is imperative to drive efforts that are not one-off, rather sustainable and process-oriented. Both urban and rural ecosystems are valuable

and need to be supported considering unique needs of their local economies and neither should face a scarcity to save the other.

Policy decisions need to be taken now to avert new failures and perhaps even repair the old ones. Sound decisions, both at individual country level and at the G20 level, would underscore the sublime importance of the precious water resource on which depends the existence of all life.

There is an imperative, undeniable need for the confluence of community participation, traditional knowledge, and technological innovations to achieve sustainable solutions. Exemplary success stories from around the world provide valuable insights

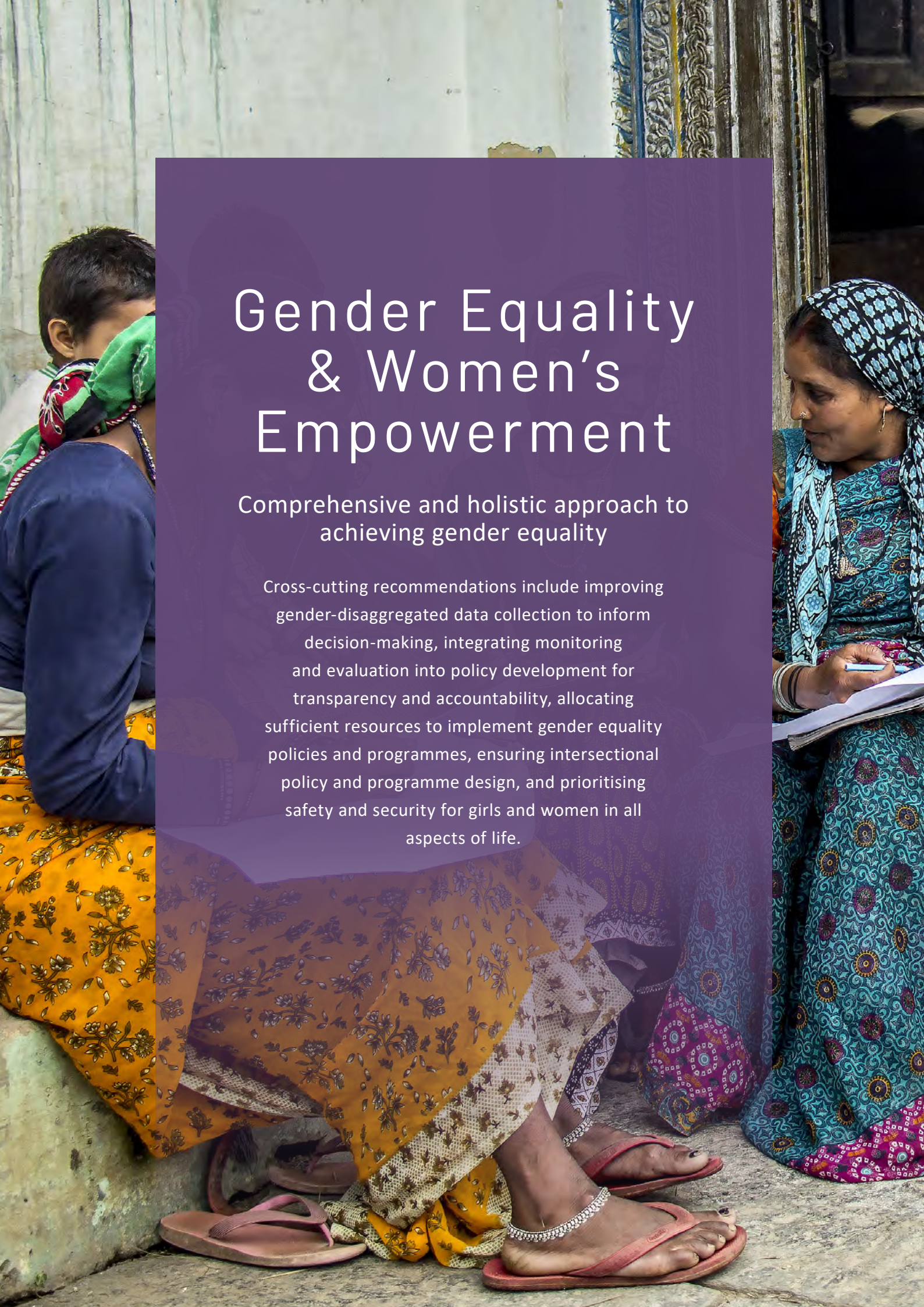
and encourage the replication of best practices. The policy recommendations stress the importance of an ecology-centric approach, stewardship over water resources, stakeholder engagement, technology utilization, cross-border cooperation, and the inclusion of environmental factors in water resource valuation. By implementing these recommendations, the G20 can play a crucial role in restoring and maintaining freshwater availability and avoiding water wars, ensuring a sustainable future for all.

This policy brief emphasizes that we must ensure that the way we are developing the sector is by moving towards an eco-centric rather than an anthropocentric development. It is imperative that river revival and water management be attended to with priority and with the enhanced status that natural capital deserves via recycling, reuse, rejuvenation/ restoration and repair.

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3. Target 6.4: By 2030, substantially increase water-use efficiency across all sectors and ensure sustainable withdrawals and supply of freshwater to address water scarcity and substantially reduce the number of people suffering from water scarcity.
4. Target 6.5: By 2030, implement integrated water resources management at all levels, including through transboundary cooperation as appropriate
5. Target 6.6.: By 2020, protect and restore water-related ecosystems, including mountains, forests, wetlands, rivers, aquifers and lakes

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Gender Equality & Women's Empowerment

Comprehensive and holistic approach to
achieving gender equality

Cross-cutting recommendations include improving gender-disaggregated data collection to inform decision-making, integrating monitoring and evaluation into policy development for transparency and accountability, allocating sufficient resources to implement gender equality policies and programmes, ensuring intersectional policy and programme design, and prioritising safety and security for girls and women in all aspects of life.

Thematic recommendations focus on specific areas:

- ◆ Prioritising mental health is crucial, and investing in accessible mental health services for women and girls can yield significant benefits. Inclusive, comprehensive national mental health policies should be developed, and mental health education should be integrated into schools and workplaces.
- ◆ Expanding access to education, particularly for rural and marginalised women and girls, is required. Barriers to education, such as safety concerns, inadequate sanitation facilities, and lack of digital infrastructure and access to it, must be addressed. Establishing gender-responsive learning centres, ensuring access for marginalised groups, improving existing sanitation infrastructure, and expanding internet connectivity and access to it are key goals.
- ◆ Engaging men and boys is vital for achieving gender equality. Harmful social norms contribute to issues like violence against women, and gender sensitisation and transformative education should be provided to all stakeholders.
- ◆ Disaster preparedness and management should include women and girls as they are disproportionately negatively affected. Mandating their representation in decision-making bodies, conducting gender and vulnerability assessments, providing gender-responsive training, and collaborating with local organisations are essential.
- ◆ Promoting women's economic empowerment is critical. Enhancing financial inclusion and promoting economic opportunities for women through stronger collaboration among financial institutions, government, private sector and civil society organisations can have a significant impact on women's economic empowerment and economic growth.

Gender inequality is internationally recognised as a cross-cutting issue that must be addressed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the realisation of basic human rights. Considering that all G20 countries have adopted the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, gender equality and empowering all women and girls are intrinsic objectives. However, a pernicious and persistent gap remains: Women comprise 49.7% of the world's population¹, yet the World Economic Forum's Gender Gap Report (2023) estimates it will take another 131 years to attain a gender-equal society at the current pace². Women hold only 33% of leadership positions across public and private sectors³, earn less than men, are over-represented in low-paying jobs, are less likely to own land and control assets than men, and have limited influence over important decisions⁴. Women are also exponentially more vulnerable to discrimination, violence, sex and labour trafficking, the effects of climate change and disasters, food insecurity, and lack of access to education and healthcare, among other disproportionately negative impacts⁵. When women are empowered with education and decision-making power, together with access to and ownership

and control over economic resources, they contribute more to sustainable development; children are less likely to suffer from malnutrition and more likely to be educated. Women's empowerment has long-term positive impacts on a family's economic status, significantly reducing poverty, and women are more likely to promote environmentally sustainable practices in agriculture and consumption⁶. Gender equality is vital to achieving a regenerative, harmonious, and prosperous world, and empowering women is a critical component of achieving gender equality.

Achieving gender equality cannot be accomplished through isolated or fragmented approaches. Instead, a comprehensive, holistic, systemic approach must be adopted to achieve sustainable and long-lasting results⁷. The following policy recommendations aim to advance such an approach, highlighting the inter-connected nature of these policies.

Cross-Cutting Recommendations

The following five key components reflect gaps in cross-cutting issues that have weakened previous policy designs and their implementation. Therefore, these must be incorporated into all policies and programmes to successfully realise the SDGs.

Further, data collection should include regular, periodic audits of the implementation processes of policies and programmes. Incentives should be put in place to ensure high-quality processes and data collection.

1. Improve, increase, and incentivise high-quality gender-disaggregated data collection. This requires dedicated, inter-sectoral resources to design data collection protocols that reflect holistic indicators on gender, society, economics, environment, health, education, and safety; design appropriate tools that will facilitate data collection; and teams of social and data scientists to extract meaningful insights from the collected data.
2. Allocate sufficient financial and human resources to gender equality policies and programmes. Mandate the integration of gender budgeting into existing public financial management and in future reforms. Gender budgeting must be included throughout the entire budget cycle, applicable to planning, budget execution, reporting, impact evaluation, and reflection upon efficacy. Incorporating gender budgeting and the allocation of



adequate human resources into all phases of the budget cycle will improve sustainability of gender policies and programmes and improve gender-related outcomes.

3. Ensure monitoring, evaluation, and impact assessments are integrated into developing all policies and programmes. This entails the creation of context-appropriate key performance indicators and expected outcomes, which should be publicly available. Additionally, evaluation reports should be published to provide a comprehensive overview of the progress made. By adopting this approach, organisations can enhance accountability, facilitate evidence-based decision-making, and foster transparency.
4. Incorporate safety and security into all aspects of life, with special attention paid to institutional approaches to ensuring girls' and women's safety. One of the primary characteristics of gender-based violence (GBV) is that it cuts across all boundaries - social, economic, and political - therefore requiring urgent attention in developing and developed nations alike⁸. Schools, workplaces, and public spaces need to be designed (or re-designed) with safety and security as a priority.

First responders, criminal justice workers, social servants, and the medical community should be actively engaged. The most effective initiatives to reduce violence against women and girls require a community-based, multi-pronged approach and sustained engagement with multiple stakeholders. These initiatives should address underlying risk factors, such as gender roles and the acceptability of violence⁹.

5. Develop intersectional policy and programme design. Develop policies and programmes that are targeted, tailored, flexible, and cognisant of the different identities women carry. These involve understanding the specific challenges faced by indigenous women, LGBTQ+ women, women of colour, women with disabilities, and others. Recognise these experiences and barriers to design more effective policies that are responsive to the unique needs of diverse groups of women. Stakeholder participation, including those from traditionally marginalised groups, should be increased at all levels of decision-making processes. Ensuring that policy development includes voices representative of all aspects of intersectionality will result in more equitable policies.

Thematic Recommendations

Prioritise Mental Health

In 2022, global costs of mental health disorders were estimated at 4.7 trillion USD and are expected to grow significantly annually¹⁰. However, countries' mental health spending remains low, with less than 2% of health budgets allocated on average, particularly in low-income countries¹¹. Despite one in ten individuals being in need of mental health care, government spending in low-income countries is estimated at less than 1 USD per capita. For example, investing in scaled-up treatment for depression and anxiety can yield a 4 USD return in better health and productivity for every 1 USD invested¹².

Specifically, women face a significantly higher lifetime risk of mood disorders and anxiety compared to men¹³. Investing in accessible mental health services for women and girls offers extensive economic and social benefits, including the potential to reduce the inter-generational transmission of mental illness. However, addressing men's mental health issues is also crucial for achieving gender equality¹⁴, as there is a strong link between men's mental health and gender-based violence¹⁵. Early intervention and prevention programmes for mental health, particularly in schools and community settings, can significantly



reduce mental health problems in adulthood¹⁶. Such programmes, incorporating robust social-emotional learning skills, have shown positive outcomes for mental health¹⁷, all of which are vital in the post-Covid-19 era when global health systems are still

strained, and mental health conditions are even more prevalent.

Revamp existing or develop comprehensive national mental health policies to:

1. Incorporate social-emotional learning and mandatory mental health education in schools and workplaces by 2025.
2. Increase access to mental health services for underrepresented communities by providing financial incentives to healthcare providers to serve these communities by 2025.
3. Increase funding for public-private partnerships to expand access to mental health services in underserved areas by 50% by 2030.
4. Ensure mental health is integrated into all primary care services by 2030, and that access to these services is subsidised or free of cost.
5. Increase the number of community-based mental health services available in underserved areas by 50% by 2030.



Expand Education and Continuing Education to Reach Rural and Marginalised Women

While most countries have achieved gender parity in primary school enrolment, approximately 129 million girls are still not attending school, with 97 million of them being of secondary school age¹⁸. Such statistics highlight the need to address low completion rates and target underserved populations for sustainable gender parity in education. Investing in women's education has significant financial benefits, as each year of education can increase earnings by 10%, and educating all girls and women could boost global GDP by up to 112 billion USD annually¹⁹.

Barriers to girls' and women's education include safety, inadequate sanitation facilities, and lack of digital infrastructure and access to it. Providing proper sanitation facilities in schools increases girls' attendance rates by 11% and improves academic performance²⁰. Additionally, expanding internet access, especially for girls and women in rural areas of developing countries, has a substantial impact on reducing poverty and promoting gender equality²¹.

1. Establish and operate gender-responsive, accessible, and affordable learning centres in underserved areas by 2030. This includes migrant and immigrant populations and rural areas.
2. Ensure that at least 80% of uneducated girls in all their diversity, marginalised groups, and migrants have access to learning centres and online education by 2030.
3. Increase the percentage of girls in all their diversity, marginalised groups and migrants who complete secondary education or equivalent by at least 50% by 2030.
4. Improve sanitation and hygiene in all existing education infrastructure; provide all newly-built infrastructure with safe, functioning, hygienic facilities suitable for girls' and women's needs.
5. Aggressively implement a strategy to ensure last-mile connectivity for under-served populations. (e.g., The International Telecommunication Union's Last-mile Internet Connectivity Solutions Guide²², or alternative) to ensure technological literacy for girls and women. Achieve 80% connectivity with minimum speeds of 25 Mbps by 2030.



Engage Men & Boys

Engaging men and boys is critical to gender equality and a key component of a holistic approach. The negative effects of social norms on men often contribute to violence against women, harmful gender stereotypes, and many other negative outcomes²³. Studies to measure the effects of harmful social norms on men and boys have been developed, including an evaluation of a concept called the “Man Box”. This refers to harmful beliefs that pressure men to conform to certain stereotypes, including being tough, self-sufficient,

and sexually aggressive²⁴. Internalising these beliefs leads to a range of negative outcomes, including sexual violence, traffic accidents, bullying, violence, suicide, binge drinking, and depressive symptoms in men aged 18-30 in the US, costing the US economy at least 15.7 billion USD annually²⁵. The same issues cost the UK 3.8 billion USD and Mexico 1.4 billion USD²⁶. In addition to global mental health efforts, specific gender sensitisation efforts need to be implemented.

1. All educational institutions, workplaces, government offices, and non-government organisations must provide gender sensitisation and masculinities’ transformative education to their staff, children, parents, policy-makers, judiciary, and front-line workers by 2030.
2. Ensure that 80% of educational institutions, workplaces, government offices, and non-government organisations receive regular audits of their gender sensitisation and masculinities’ transformative education programs by 2030.
3. All curricula should include culturally and age-appropriate sexual and reproductive health and rights and responsibilities of all genders, awareness of alternative masculinities, sexual and gender diversity awareness, sexual harassment, anti-violence and anti-bias campaigns, and online safety by 2030.
4. At least 50% of all educational institutions, workplaces, government offices, and non-government organisations should have measurable targets for engaging men and boys in the context of gender equality by 2030.



Disaster Preparedness and Management

Women and girls, particularly those in lower socio-economic populations, are disproportionately negatively impacted by environmental degradation and disasters. Yet, women are typically not systematically included in the design, implementation, monitoring and evaluation of disaster risk reduction and resilience efforts or in other environmental decision-making

efforts. Women's roles as key stakeholders in agriculture, biodiversity preservation, and as transmitters of inter-generational values and sustainable environmental practices are vital contributions to disaster preparedness. In particular, indigenous keepers of traditional knowledge have a long-held understanding of the plant and animal species that inhabit their regions and the sustainable practices that allow them to flourish. It is important to include indigenous and native peoples, especially women, in planning and decision-making processes to prevent or mitigate climate-induced natural disasters. Several agencies of the United Nations have developed programmes to address gender inequality in disaster preparedness and relief from multiple angles, but men still hold 94% of managerial roles in the field of disaster risk reduction. Upon closer look, women in managerial positions are concentrated in roles such as personnel and public relations rather than direct management of disaster response programs.

roles. This has resulted in persistent inequalities in women's access to housing, education, health services, safety, employment, and other post-disaster economic reconstruction

1. Mandate a minimum representation of at least 50% women, girls, and other vulnerable groups in disaster risk reduction and management (DRRM) planning and policy

development committees, task forces, and decision-making bodies and ensure this target is met by 2030.



2. Conduct gender and vulnerability assessments in all disaster-prone areas within the next three years.
3. Implement specialised gender-responsive DRRM training for at least 500 policymakers, planners, and practitioners in G20 countries, annually.
4. Establish community-based training initiatives in 50% of disaster-prone

communities within the next three years, focusing on empowering women and girls as leaders in disaster management.

5. Collaborate with local organisations, NGOs, and community leaders to deliver awareness programmes and challenge gender norms in at least 90% of targeted communities.

Women's Economic Empowerment

Access to finance for women entrepreneurs has a significant impact on economic growth. Studies indicate that closing the gender finance gap in developing countries could unlock USD 5.5 trillion in global gross domestic product (GDP) by 2025. Advancing women's access to finance equality could also add USD 12 trillion to global GDP by 2025. Additionally, women-led start-ups generate 78 cents in revenue for every dollar of funding, compared to 31 cents for start-ups founded by men. Furthermore, companies with more women in senior management positions have better financial performance, with a six percentage points higher net profit margin for companies with at least 30% women in leadership positions. Enhancing financial inclusion



and promoting other economic opportunities can be achieved by enabling convergence among financial

institutions, government, private sector, and CSOs.

Specifically:

1. Mandate financial service providers to allocate a minimum of 33% of their credit portfolio specifically for micro, small, and medium scale enterprises led by women and marginalised groups.
2. Incentivise loan officers to positively consider applications from women business owners and institute an “if not/why not” accountability framework, under which loan officers must explain why a loan application submitted by a woman was rejected.
3. Provide capacity building and skills development to women and marginalised groups to access employment, entrepreneurship and investment opportunities in frontier technologies and the green and blue economies.
4. Encourage gender-responsive public procurement programmes in G20 countries; mandate Environmental, Social and Governance (ESG) reporting by the top 1000 publicly listed companies, encouraging reporting on gender-responsive corporate procurement as a metric.

Conclusion

Achieving gender equality and women's empowerment requires a comprehensive and holistic approach. Cross-cutting recommendations include improving gender-disaggregated data collection, integrating monitoring and evaluation into policy development, allocating sufficient resources, and prioritising safety and security for women and girls. Thematic recommendations focus on prioritising mental health,

expanding access to education, engaging men and boys, including women in disaster preparedness and management, and promoting women's economic empowerment. These recommendations, with adequate human and financial resources, when implemented, will contribute to creating a regenerative, harmonious, and prosperous world where gender equality is a reality.

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Integrated Holistic Health

Mind, Body & Environment

Our goal is to promote a state of SAMYUKT AROGYA - 'SAMYUKT': Integrated, Holistic Health: Mind, Body and Environment. Aligned with the WHO definition of health, "a state of complete physical, mental, and social well-being and not merely the absence of disease and infirmity", the C20 Integrated Holistic Health Working Group (IHH-WG) 2023 iterates that health promotion and disease prevention must be addressed at the levels of mind, body, and environment. Building on commitments made by previous G20 leaderships, IHH-WG expands the scope of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (UN-SDG3), Good Health and Well-Being, proposing inclusive, equitable and holistic solutions for building healthy communities.

The consolidated policy recommendations are:

- ◆ Adoption, implementation and sustainability of a National Mental Health Programme in all G20 countries, extending into the community, public health institutions and private sector, entailing screening and follow-up at both community and institutional levels, with special emphasis on the vulnerable - women, children, and marginalised communities.
- ◆ G20 commitment to enhance community and primary healthcare systems by integration of Digital Health Platforms contextualised to the country, with a guarantee of “ACCESS FOR ALL” for preventative care, therapy, and health system delivery for both communicable and Non-Communicable Diseases (NCDs).
- ◆ A uniform One-health policy to be agreed upon by G20 member nations through an Inter-sectoral Global Framework and Treaty for Zoonotic diseases and Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR) encompassing surveillance, data sharing, and alerts, research and shared infrastructure and management.



Introduction

Health is key to meeting the Sustainable Development Agenda by 2030. Health has a strong and direct influence on the economy of nations. The global GDP fell by 3.4% in 2020, translating to a 2 trillion USD economic loss due to COVID. The COVID-19 pandemic underscored the need for global healthcare cooperation, given the imminent likelihood of similar pandemics in the future. It is imperative to build consensus among United Nations member States on all fronts to be better prepared.

To address this, we aim to accelerate progress towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC) - ensuring everyone has access to quality, affordable healthcare.

UHC requires promoting universal access to preventative and curative approaches. The interdependence of environment, climate, and health is clear, as is the connection between mental and physical well-being.

Embracing a holistic approach to health is now an urgent necessity. Under the 2023 C20 Chair, Mata Amritanandamayi Math (MA Math), the Integrated Holistic Health (IHH) WG engaged over 5,000 people from 1,054 organisations in 86 countries. Through inclusive processes, key policy recommendations and best practices were selected via twenty-eight online and in-person events culminating in a summit in Faridabad, Haryana. Representatives from civil society, indigenous communities,



patients, caregivers, experts, and marginalised groups, including those with diverse SOGISEC (Sexual Orientation, Gender Identity, Gender Expression and Sex Characteristics) participated in these efforts.

The C20 IHH WG builds on commitments made by previous G20 Leaderships. Bali 2022 urged achieving Universal Health Coverage while addressing food insecurity and malnutrition, particularly in Low- and Middle-Income Countries (LMICs). Rome 2021 committed to support countries to improve resilience by addressing critical sustainability challenges. Riyadh 2020 prioritised the tackling of AMR and environmental causes of disease

using the One-Health approach and advancing efforts in communicable and non-communicable diseases. Osaka 2019 envisioned an inclusive society that allows each individual to perform to one's full potential, with promotion of healthy ageing, and people-centric health promotion and prevention that are aligned to the life-course approach. This year's C20 IHH working group widened the scope to include different facets of the United Nations Sustainable Development Goal 3 (UN-SDG3), Good Health and Well-Being, to develop inclusive, equitable and holistic solutions for health.



Policy Recommendations

I. Mind – Advocating a Mental Health Policy

Before the estimated five-fold increase in depression and anxiety globally since COVID-19, at least 1 billion people had mental health conditions, representing 418 million disability-adjusted life years and a burden of 5 trillion USD annually. Mental health conditions lead to loss of productivity, driving under-

employment, social isolation, and poverty. Today, 90% of mental illness goes undiagnosed and untreated, a gap largely driven by stigma, discrimination, and human rights violations. The 2023 C20 IHH-WG includes Mental Health and Wellness for the first time.

Our policy recommendations to the G20 are:

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| <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Adopt and sustain a comprehensive National Mental Health Literacy Program.• Incorporate and integrate a Mental Health Education Program into the National School Curricula by 2025, to include:• Awareness and knowledge of signs and symptoms of mental distress, reducing bullying, harassment, and stigma against those with or without mental illness.• Suicide awareness and prevention; integrating skills and activities that promote mental fortitude, positive decision-making, and peer support.• Provide Community & Institutional | <ul style="list-style-type: none">• Mental Health Training to healthcare workers to promote suicide awareness and prevention.• Deliver basic assessment tools for common mental health disorders and suicidal behaviours to support lay-counselling training among school counsellors, village social workers and non-specialist health workers.• Ensure the availability of mental health services in all community hospitals, corporations, universities, government and other institutions.• Training should be supported by health system networks so that acute mental conditions can be triaged by higher-level professionals. |
|---|---|



- Develop robust, evidence-based mental health programs that promote knowledge and mind-strengthening life skills (e.g., meditation, yoga, cognitive skills) for advancing positive mental health and resilience, preventing mental illness and suicidal behaviours, and reducing mental illness symptoms, with special emphasis on the underprivileged - women, children, marginalised communities, and caretakers and those grieving the loss of their near and dear ones.
- It is vital to include community engagement as well as civil society organisations to make this process more effective.
- Ensure free and quality mental health care is integrated into all primary care services by 2030.
- Scaling up interventions and services across community-based, general health and specialist settings - In a country-by-country approach as per the WHO Special Initiative on Mental Health, considering that the status of mental health care differs greatly across nations.
- Mental health care must be integrated into relevant public health programmes (e.g. for HIV and gender-based violence prevention, disabilities) in addition to primary care services.
- Increase number and quality of community based mental healthcare providers via incentivization schemes.

II. Body- Implement a Life-Course Approach to Chronic Diseases incorporating Digital Health Applications

Despite the COVID-19 pandemic, NCDs continue to be the top cause of mortality and morbidity globally, with low-middle-income countries (LMICs) bearing a disproportionate burden of NCDs. NCDs account for 74% of all deaths (41 million) globally annually and 80% of all “premature” deaths between 30 and 69 years of age. The likelihood of premature deaths from NCDs is six times higher in LMICs than in high-income countries. Modifiable risk factors include unhealthy diet, tobacco and alcohol use, sedentary lifestyle, and air pollution. The global burden of NCDs is estimated to be \$47 trillion over the next two decades, unless adequate preventative and control measures are implemented.

LMICs are also burdened with treatable conditions complicating maternal and child health such as nutritional deficiencies, which have proven low-cost measures of mitigation. Given the increasingly ageing population globally, geriatric health and wellness, palliative and end-of-life care become priorities requiring critical attention.

An overarching theme that emerged from discussions among the various health sub-groups included usage of digital platforms for universal health coverage. The other common theme that emerged across the health sub-groups included a life-course approach to addressing NCDs, maternal and child health and wellness, nutrition and mental health alongside steps to improve health literacy.

The Life Course perspective looks at health as an integrated continuum where biological, behavioural, psychological, social and environmental factors interact and influence health outcomes throughout a person's life. A woman's health and nutrition as she enters reproductive age directly affects her future child's birth weight and order, nutrition, future risk of obesity and therefore potential contraction of NCDs and mental health conditions. Addressing the health and wellbeing of future generations requires immediate measures to ensure the health of all persons of reproductive age in order to prevent future disease.



A Digital health mission integrating services across the healthcare sector, including diagnostics, therapy, demography, health condition, and health delivery, would facilitate diagnosis, monitoring, adherence, preventative aspects and promote access to health information. Platforms similar to the ones created for COVID-19 could be replicated for other communicable and NCDs. The digital health platforms should integrate health literacy into the health delivery system spanning mental health, maternal and child healthcare, palliative and end-of-life care, and traditional and complementary healthcare systems.

Given the ubiquity of handheld devices and wide penetration of mobile networks, a Digital Health policy for G20 nations needs to be framed, including surveillance, monitoring, preventative and awareness indicators for both communicable and NCDs. Digital health policies should address deployment of myriad cost-effective digital tools, such as artificial intelligence, in a manner that prioritises ethics and person-centeredness, while increasing healthcare access, improving quality, reducing costs and ensuring privacy.



The policy recommendations to the G20 are:

- Integrate the life course approach into public health strategies, which addresses health disparities and improves overall population health for NCDs and maternal and child health. The life course approach incorporates health information from maternal, paternal, and individual perspectives. For example, if a mother has gestational diabetes, that child has a significantly increased likelihood of contracting diabetes in their lifetime. Appropriate preventative measures and follow up must be incorporated into that child's healthcare.
- ▶ Holistic Perspective: Public health services should adopt a holistic perspective that recognizes the inter-connectedness of different gender specific life stages and their impact on health outcomes, considering the interactions between various factors such as genetics, early life experiences, social determinants, and lifestyle choices.
- Prevention and Early Intervention
- ▶ Strengthening public health systems to provide free and quality integrated management of childhood illness as per WHO guidelines by 2025.
- ▶ Prevent and control micronutrient deficiencies in women of reproductive age and other vulnerable groups through dietary interventions, including dietary improvement, food fortification, including salt double-fortified with iodine and iron, supplementation, and public health measures: de-worming and improving Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene (WASH) - with an emphasis on menstrual and sexual health.
- ▶ Develop an integrated nutrition plan using the life-course approach: Promote dietary diversity by including organic, non-genetically modified and locally sourced nutritious food items into beneficiary food baskets in existing meal initiatives.
- ▶ Ensure free access to family planning services in all public and community healthcare centres and educational institutions, including family planning programs, sex education in schools, and the availability of low-priced over-the-counter contraceptives.

- Employ digital platforms for surveillance, monitoring, preventative care, therapy, awareness, adherence, and follow-up, factoring in post-procedure care. These must be integrated into existing healthcare systems to facilitate access for populations who currently are not able to access consistent quality healthcare.
 - ▶ Digital platforms must be leveraged for effective and holistic life-course approaches to healthcare solutions.
 - ▶ Utilise digital platforms to accelerate immunisation and vaccination drives, to reach a target of 90% childhood immunisation by 2025.
- Create evidence-based guidelines for integrative care specifying the scope of different traditional and complementary medical systems (T&CMs) in managing specific diseases to enable the general public to make informed decisions.
 - ▶ Develop research methodologies in alignment with the epistemological framework of T&CMs to generate evidence of safety and efficacy.
 - ▶ Facilitate evidence-based integration of T&CM into mainstream health care to address unmet healthcare manpower needs, improve holistic treatment outcomes, and promote physical, mental, and spiritual health and wellness.



III. Environment - One-Health

The health of people is inextricably linked to the health of animals and our shared environment. According to WHO, climate change is the single biggest threat to human health which could directly lead to 250,000 deaths per year by 2030. New or endemic zoonotic diseases, Neglected Tropical Diseases (NTDs), vector-borne diseases, anti-microbial resistance (AMR), food safety and food security all link environment, climate and health. Climate change lowers food productivity, both agrarian and marine, compounds mental health issues, contributes directly to nutrition, maternal & child health, poor outcomes in NCDs and majorly contributes to emerging infectious diseases. Poor practices in multiple industries, including livestock farming, and hospital and immunisation programme management are increasing AMR and decreasing the ability to treat it.

The IHH-WG deliberations focused on one-health and AMR, strengthening cooperation in the pharmaceutical sector, and improving healthcare service delivery. Placing an emphasis on access to and availability of safe,

effective, quality, and affordable medical countermeasures such as vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and digital health innovations and solutions to support UHC. The current global leadership must work together for the formulation of a “Global Public Health Convention,” with its core obligation being to protect Global Public Health, preventing profit-driven industry exploitative practices, and prioritise the needs of Global South.



The policy recommendations to the G20 are:

- Establish robust, inclusive, intersectoral, cross-Ministerial national One-health task forces by 2030 that comprehensively integrate critical sectors such as agriculture, forestry, animal husbandry, environment, finance, forestry, and foreign affairs with health, addressing urgent health priorities such as emerging pathogens and zoonotic diseases.
- ▶ Task forces must be endowed with adequate resources and specific timelines, accompanied by measurable outcomes to help foster inter-disciplinary research and collaboration.
- ▶ Strengthen surveillance through capacity-building programs inclusive of improved management of zoonotic diseases such as rabies and emerging pathogens, communicable disease programs including HIV, TB, Malaria, NTDs, and snakebite.
- ▶ Ensure accessibility to low cost WHO-approved diagnostics and treatment, prioritising at-risk populations.
- ▶ Ensure that existing minimum standards for animal health services are met and set obligations to improve biosecurity in the production, transportation, slaughter, and retailing of animals to reduce the transfer of pathogens. This needs to include care and welfare practices on farms to both reduce the use of antimicrobials and support natural ecosystem health.



- Create a Global Framework for Addressing AMR – including surveillance, monitoring and strategic planning, similar to the Framework Convention on Tobacco Control by 2025.
- ▶ Involve human, animal, and environmental health sectors, and engage with civil society organisations, community leaders, and international cross-sectoral stakeholders.
- ▶ Implement stringent legislative control of antimicrobial dispensing for use in both humans and animals, including effective antibiotics stewardship programs and community engagement initiatives.
- ▶ Ensure Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Right (TRIPS) and Intellectual Property waivers for the protection of Global Public Health implementing Universal access to Health services, including lifesaving drugs/medicines, diagnostics and related health services as “Global Public Health Goods” and allowing worldwide right to use, re-produce and ensure supply globally.



Conclusion

G20 leaders must recognise that it is time for a radical paradigm shift in addressing public health. We are in the midst of a global mental health crisis, particularly among youth which cannot be left unaddressed by G20 leaders. The accelerating pace of climate change has made it abundantly clear that a One-health model of public health is the only path forward towards protecting human and animal health and safeguarding the environment. Siloed public health

approaches that ignore the interactions between people and nature will leave us unable to address current and emerging pathogens and incapable of confronting the next pandemic. However, advances in digital technology, machine learning, and artificial intelligence can dramatically reduce inequities in access, provided G20 leaders ensure that these technologies are deployed with health equity as a core principle.





Education & Digital Transformation

Towards Inclusive and
Human-centred Education and
Digital Transformation Policies

The Education and Digital
Transformation Working Group (EDTWG)
under C20 India 2023 has suggested
several key areas of focus to foster
inclusive, accessible, compassionate, and
human-centred education and digital
transformation.

1. **Education for Life and Global Citizenship:** Encourage experiential learning and community involvement in rural villages, promote indigenous cultures and knowledge systems, and address mental, emotional, and spiritual dimensions of people. Strategies include substance abuse prevention, education in indigenous knowledge systems, support for disadvantaged communities, and fostering cultural inclusion and social justice.
2. **Education for Persons with Disabilities:** Emphasizes the need for early identification and intervention for persons with disabilities. Raise awareness about inclusion and designing and implement policies for early detection of disabilities. Financially support research in disability studies, build tools for early identification, and provide low-cost assistive technology for inclusion.
3. **Learning Equity & the Future of Education:** Enhance equitable access to education and ensure the fair allocation of resources through learning equity audits. Promote the inclusion of people from vulnerable populations in decision-making processes at all levels of education, research, decision-making and in governance. Other recommendations include fostering mutual recognition of online and on-site degrees and certificate courses, developing inclusive curricula, and providing pedagogical, skills, inclusion, and technology training for teachers.



4. **Skill Development:** Establish inclusive financing mechanisms for skill development, create financial aid programs for marginalized individuals, encouraging corporate social responsibility contributions for skill development initiatives, include skill development opportunities in public employment programs, and establish public online platforms to collect and analyse skill development data.
5. **Education in Emergencies:** Provide comprehensive training for emergency situations and develop localized emergency curriculum models. Enhance teacher capacity for inclusive education and invest in continuous professional development.
6. **Digital Transformation & Accessibility:** Develop human-centred design principles, promote digital public goods and commons, bridge the digital divide, and provide comprehensive training on responsible technology use. The recommendations emphasize inclusive digital access for all, including marginalized and vulnerable populations.



The WG recommends a multi-dimensional approach to implement these sub-themes, including context-specific evidence-based programmes, stakeholder coordination, community engagement, affordable technological

solutions, and quality assurance measures. In funding and partnerships, the WG suggests sustained political commitment, public-private-people partnerships (PPPP), and transparency in fund allocation.

Introduction

Education empowers and catalyses societal transformation. The Civil20 India 2023 Chair's vision for global education is based on the emphasis on both tangible skills and spiritual wisdom, along with their respect for diverse viewpoints. The holistic, inclusive nature of ancient Indian education, exemplified by prominent institutions like Nalanda and Takshashila, is still relevant in today's globalized educational landscape. The "Gurukula" system's focus on nurturing a deep student-teacher bond and promoting harmony with nature and society continues to provide important lessons for the development of today's education systems globally.



The WG initiatives build upon commitments enshrined in instruments like the United Nations Charter¹, Universal Declaration of Human Rights², and other treaties emphasizing

sustainable development. They uphold global citizenship education and values like diversity, human rights, and social justice. The 2022 G20 Bali³ commitments further emphasized international collaboration for digital skills development, particularly benefiting people in vulnerable situations. The Transforming Education Summit (UNESCO 2023)⁴ identified four key areas of transformation: creating supportive environments for all learners, empowering teachers, harnessing the digital revolution in public education, and advocating for increased, efficient, and equitable investment in education.

The EDT WG seeks to make an original contribution by distilling a set of recommendations that amplify the voices of the global South, particularly those of the most vulnerable, driven by a human-centred and values-driven perspective.

By prioritizing education for life, inclusion, accessibility, and equity for diverse learners, and emphasizing compassion, G20 countries can build empowered societies that are prepared

to navigate the complexities of the modern world and drive positive change. Specifically, the WG seeks to promote core principles of inclusiveness and human-centred approaches through compassion-based perspectives, universal access to education, including at the international level, skills, and digital resources, and the reduction of the digital divide.

This aligns with the principle of “Data for Development,” which is a crucial aspect of India’s Presidency of G20. India recognizes digital transformation as the key to achieving sustainable development goals related to poverty reduction, education, health, and direct benefit transfer. It also aligns with the aspirations of the Global Digital Compact (GDC)⁵, which aims to establish shared principles for an open, free, and secure digital future for all, to be agreed upon at the Summit of the Future⁶ in 2024 at the United Nations.

The rapid and widespread change brought about by Digital Transformation is unprecedented, transforming society and offering unprecedented advancements in the human condition. However, it is also crucial to recognize that education or digital technologies,

when used improperly or maliciously, can fuel divisions within and between countries, increase insecurity, undermine human rights, and exacerbate inequality.

While Education and Digital Transformation are distinct themes, the C20 EDT WG has considered specific recommendations for each theme and has also considered inter-connected recommendations that create synergies between these two areas.



Sub-themes and Recommendations

Under the guidance of the C20 India 2023 Chair and building on its consultations, the EDT WG has identified the following sub-themes:

- Education for Life and Global Citizenship
- Education for Persons with Disabilities
- Learning Equity & The Future of Education
- Skill Development
- Education in Emergencies
- Digital Transformation & Accessibility

We the need to prioritize holistic education for development, early identification and intervention for persons with disabilities, equitable access and learning equity audit, capacity building for emergency preparedness and safety, inclusive financing for skill development, and promotion of inclusive digital

accessibility and technology for societal impact.

The recommendations below reflect the aggregated results of the consultation process organized in main areas of often cross-cutting policy recommendations for the sub-themes:



A. Promote Holistic Education for Development & LIFE

- Promote ancient and indigenous cultures as they recognize the interconnectedness of various aspects of human beings, animals, and nature through Indigenous Knowledge Systems and through the lives of humanitarian leaders who have put this into practice, and address the emotional, social, mental, and spiritual dimensions of people's lives.
- Promote experiential learning among youth by encouraging their involvement in serving disadvantaged communities in villages and sensitizing them of their potential contribution towards achieving SDGs.
- Sensitize the community and educational ecosystem towards inclusion through activities that promote acceptance, foster cultural inclusion and social justice, provide socio-emotional support, and encourage respect and care for persons with disabilities, girls, indigenous people, and marginalized populations.
- Raise awareness and implement preventive measures to address substance abuse and internet abuse among youth. Establish a protective space within schools that provides psychological support to students.



B. Provide early identification and swift intervention for persons with disabilities and learning difficulties

- Raise awareness and sensitize teachers, caregivers, parents, communities, public authorities, and both private and public sectors about the importance of inclusion in education.
- Design and implement early detection policies and strategies for identifying invisible and other disabilities in the local context, and ensure swift interventions including relevant technology, and training for effective inclusion.
- Encourage research in the field of inclusion, disability studies, and assistive technologies with funding support. Document and make available best practices in inclusive education for the benefit of stakeholders.

C. Ensure Equitable Access and Learning Equity

- Promote the inclusion of people from vulnerable populations in decision-making processes at all levels of education, research, and in governance.
- Monitor through learning equity audit and the effective use of technology in education, utilizing disaggregated data to inform decision-making and allocate resources to areas with the greatest need and impact. Develop policies and mechanisms that ensure fair and effective allocation of financing.
- Foster the mutual recognition of online and on-site degrees and certificate courses internationally, emphasizing quality, inclusivity, and accessibility in higher education.

- Provide teachers with pedagogical, skills, inclusion, and technology training programs, while implementing incentives to attract and retain high-quality educators.
- Ensure equitable access to education, including foundational literacy and numeracy, for vulnerable populations such as children, persons with disabilities, women, rural inhabitants, individuals in emergencies, and indigenous communities.
- Develop inclusive curricula with diverse and relevant information and pedagogical approaches, prioritizing a human-centred approach to design and delivery. Ensure that curricula are accessible to all groups, including those with limited access to technology due to various reasons such as emergencies or disabilities.

D. Promote Capacity building for Emergency Preparedness and Safety to strengthen Education

- Provide comprehensive training for teachers in emergency situations, prioritizing the well-being of both students and teachers over specific subjects.
- Develop and implement localized emergency curriculum models to prepare for unforeseen circumstances in each locality.
- Enhance teachers' abilities and capacity to deliver inclusive education and education in emergencies, promoting an inclusive learning environment for all students. Invest in continuous professional development for teachers, with a specific focus on digital skills.

E. Take a Multidimensional implementation approach

- Build Education and Digital Transformation programs based on context-specific evidence and ensure involvement of private and government for regulation of digital services.
- Promote Life-long learning opportunities, stakeholders coordination, and international collaboration
- Ensure Community Engagement and alignment in education and skill development.
- Promote affordable emerging technologies and low-tech solutions, with a focus on practical aspects, especially in rural areas.
- Establish quality assurance and interoperable standards for educational programs.



F. Implement inclusive financing for skill development

- Allocate financial resources of equal value to public education spending to finance inclusive skill development programs targeted at marginalized communities and vulnerable groups, including investment in accessible TVET infrastructure, qualified teachers, learning materials, and resources (including digital).
- Mandate corporate social responsibility contributions equivalent to 1% of annual profits from private companies to support inclusive skill development initiatives to be spent based on multi-stakeholder decision-making mechanisms
- Implement a portable social security scheme covering 75% of informal sector workers within the next five years, providing access to healthcare, insurance, retirement benefits, and income support during emergencies.
- Ensure that 70% of individuals employed under public employment programmes are provided with opportunities for skill development and upskilling within three years.
- Establish national publicly accessible online platforms in G20 countries that collect and analyse disaggregated skill development and employment data, targeting at least 90% of training providers and employers within five years such that at least 95% of data is available in a standardized format and updated annually.



G. Promote Inclusive Digital Accessibility

- Develop human-centred design principles for all aspects of education/training/skill development.
- Promote Digital Public Goods and Digital Commons for inclusive, affordable, and customizable Digital SDG solutions
- Promote digital literacy and hygiene among marginalized and vulnerable communities.
- Strengthen digital accessibility and bridge the Digital Divide including vulnerable populations, low-literate populations, and persons with disability, and provide access to digital technologies, the internet, devices, and curricula in the local language.
- Provide comprehensive training to individuals on responsible technology use, addressing issues of misuse and abuse, while fostering critical thinking, problem-solving, digital literacy, and ethical skills.





H. Partnerships & Funding

- Secure sustained political commitment, including financial aspects for developing programs in Education, Skills, and Digital Transformation: G20 members could play a relevant role in financial terms, providing funds to improve access to education, inclusive practices, and technology in the Global South. Provide an emergency fund for the events of unforeseen circumstances. In those events, uninterrupted access to education must be ensured.
- Foster the role of PPPP (public-private-people partnership) in Education and Digital Transformation policies and ensure that they share a common goal and allow to provide a faster response to today's and future needs. Also foster PPPP partnerships to support the implementation of policies and programs. These PPPP need to be appropriately regulated, transparent, and public-oriented.
- Monitor implementation of practices and use disaggregated data for monitoring, learning equity audit, and transparency to ensure efficient fund allocation.

Udaaharans

Live-in-Labs^{®7}

Established in 2013 in India, Amrita Vishwa Vidyapeetham University, Live-in-Labs[®] is a multi-disciplinary international experiential learning programme that facilitates the research, development, and deployment of sustainable solutions for current challenges faced by rural communities in India. The programme is designed

to engage participants in a mutual learning and sharing experience by breaking classroom and lab barriers to implement theoretical knowledge to address real-world problems.

www.amrita.edu/live-in-labs/



AYUDH⁸

AYUDH stands for Amrita Yuva Dharma Dhara, a Sanskrit term that means “the youth which perpetuates the wheel of dharma (righteousness)”. In Sanskrit, AYUDH also means Peace, which is symbolized by the dove in the logo. Established in 1985, it is an international youth movement of Mata Amritanandamayi Math, currently active in Europe, North America, Asia, Australia, Africa, and India. AYUDH

seeks to empower young people to integrate universal values into their daily lives. Starting with themselves, AYUDH wants to help establish a future of hope, peace, and social engagement while maintaining an awareness of spiritual principles. It is aiming to use the powerful force of young people to perpetuate natural harmony, social justice, and personal empowerment.

DIKSHA⁹

DIKSHA (Digital Infrastructure for Knowledge-Sharing) is a national platform for school education, built with the support of a CSO and an initiative of the National Council

for Educational Research and Training (NCERT), under the aegis of the Ministry of Education (MoE), Government of India.





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The background of the image is a dark blue-grey gradient. On the left and right sides, there are vertical strips of blurred, multi-colored text in shades of green, yellow, and red, resembling computer code. In the center, a large yellow rectangle contains the main text. At the bottom of the image, the back of a person's head and shoulders are visible, looking upwards towards the text.

Technology, Security, and Transparency

This policy brief proposes strategic solutions to some of the most pressing digital technology challenges faced at a global level. Two cross-cutting recommendations will strengthen all policies and programmes designed to regulate technology. Education of emerging technologies for beneficial use and mitigation of potential harm and collaboration between stakeholders and countries to deal with the ever-evolving digital environment and promote a secure and inclusive digital world.

Our thematic recommendations include:

- ◆ **Technology for Empowerment** We advocate for enhancing accessibility and inclusivity by setting up infrastructure bridging the digital divide, promoting user-centric design in technology, establishing open-data policies, democratising e-commerce platforms, and investing in robust technological solutions to achieve the SDGs and creating an inclusive and fair digital society.
- ◆ **Security, Safety, and Resilience** This theme underscores the importance of international cooperation and collaboration in cybersecurity, protection against cyber attacks on critical infrastructure, establishing legal frameworks to counter online violence, especially toward vulnerable populations, and developing norms to prevent misuse of AI systems and regulating technologies that innately induce addictive tendencies and negatively affect user's health and well-being.
- ◆ **AI and Data for Society** We emphasise that ethical, fair, and safe deployment of technology must be ensured, the generation of high-quality datasets for marginalised communities is incentivised, and international regulations assigning liability for harms arising from technology are created.
- ◆ **Transparency, Trust, and Disinformation** We propose measures to combat disinformation, including developing a shared terminology and a comprehensive strategy, establishing national information networks, establishing an effective legal infrastructure, and enhancing transparency and trust within the technology supply chain.

The recommendations provided in this policy brief aim to create a digital future that is more accessible, secure, transparent, and inclusive. A future that leverages technology to create safer, more equitable societies globally.

Introduction

Technology has transformed how we interact with our surroundings and with each other. Automation, digitisation, and computerisation have increased productivity and convenience in our daily lives. The internet and digital technologies have revolutionised how nations approach challenges and transformed the global economy. Digital literacy has become a prerequisite for most workforce sectors, allowing people to transition from low-skill to middle-skill jobs. However, technology can exacerbate inequalities. Despite the benefits, the availability and accessibility of technology are not evenly distributed, with underdeveloped countries and less developed regions within developed countries being left behind. Although the digital economy is challenging to measure, it has become a significant propellant for commerce. There is now unprecedented dependence on the access, quality, and integrity of digitised information¹.

1. The digital economy is the primary catalyst for economic progress in developed and underdeveloped countries²; hence, these issues must be addressed.
2. Ensuring accessibility and availability of technology is essential, but it is equally important to address significant security issues collectively. Technology has been weaponised in various ways, including spam mail with viruses and spear-phishing campaigns. Deep learning techniques can be misused to develop tools for harm, such as: propaganda, manipulation, and economic warfare. Cyber attacks are increasingly prevalent, with an expected annual cost of 10.5 trillion USD by 2025³.
3. Moreover, inadequate security and privacy is a growing concern, and the dissemination of disinformation has aggravated societal divisions and polarised the world. It is causing severe harm to individuals and

socio-political stability. Youth, in particular, are facing unforeseen effects living in a digital world, including online harassment, cyberbullying, and internet overuse, affecting both their mental health and physical well-being. In addition to these challenges, Artificial Intelligence (AI) has brought new ethical concerns, bias, lack of transparency, and potential job displacement. These issues are classified as global risks by the World Economic Forum⁴.

4. The fast pace of new technology development and consequent releases have outpaced the ability of policymakers to adapt and regulate them effectively. Civilians are the most impacted by emerging paradigms in technology development and use. There is a pressing need for online spaces to remain secure, safe, and lawful and ensure transparency in the policies that govern digital technologies. The C20 Technology, Security, and Transparency (TST) Working Group addresses these various technology-related risks, opportunities, and challenges society faces through the following policy recommendations.



Cross-Cutting Recommendations

1. Education of emerging technologies for beneficial use and mitigation of potential harm is key to success. G20 countries should prioritise financial and human resources to design and implement comprehensive awareness and educational training programs. This education must cater to different age groups for digital up-skilling and reskilling on emerging technologies and provide an understanding of their impacts. This requires collaboration between the public, private and civil society sectors, with input from experts to develop tailored curricula and training activities to exercise critical thinking and increase competency. Those with limited financial capacity, low-income occupations, and those living in low or no-access rural areas should be prioritised. These training programs should integrate ethics and ensure that citizens of all ages can understand, safely use, and adopt new and upcoming technologies. Monitoring, evaluation, and national reporting of these programs should be integrated into programme design to measure their effectiveness and ensure they remain relevant and up-to-date with the rapidly evolving digital landscape.

2. Collaboration between stakeholders and countries is required to deal with the ever-evolving digital environment and promote a secure and inclusive digital world. We call on political will, leadership and action to encourage cross-border cooperation among governments, international organisations, private industries, academia, and civil society towards:

- a).** The creation and implementation of multi-stakeholder frameworks, protocols, and standards that ensure policy coherence, consistency and facilitate information sharing, capacity building, and collective action and
- b).** Support the exchange of best practices, expertise, and technologies, establish trust, promote responsible behaviour, and uphold digital rights, inclusivity, and security through these frameworks. Moreover, it is essential to actively involve all stakeholder groups, including those from marginalised groups, in shaping policies and programs.



I. Technology for Empowerment

Technology is now a fundamental pillar of our society. The economies of all countries are reliant on technology; hence empowering people with technology increases possibilities for the future. Three primary challenges have been identified concerning the digital economy.

1. Lack of accessibility, availability, and affordability inhibits sustainable development and the betterment of society. Physical infrastructure development is a barrier in rural areas where internet use is only 46% compared to 82% in urban areas⁵.
2. For persons with disabilities, it is essential to have accessible technologies to participate in the digital ecosystem and achieve financial independence and resiliency.
3. Approximately 61% of all online content is in English⁶. Parity in access to the digital world in low-English proficiency countries can only be achieved through the enablement of multilingual internet. For this, content in local languages and Universal Acceptance (UA), internationalised domain names (IDNs) and Unicode are necessary.

Technological solutions can help reduce global imbalances; for example, digital payment systems can increase financial inclusion⁷. Another example is open-source initiatives allowing access to Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) by providing free, flexible, and customisable technology for developing countries and marginalised communities. Improved access to research publications is also important for society's prosperity.

However, access is frequently limited due to paywalls or fees for access. In some cases, access to necessary technology can be impeded by patent regulations and the reluctance of some organisations to share information, citing proprietary or competitive interests, hindering essential information sharing necessary for the common good and preservation of humankind, best exemplified by the COVID-19 vaccine.

Policy Recommendations

- Align with the UN's universal connectivity goals⁸ by promoting policies that expand broadband connectivity and access to digital devices, especially to remote, underserved, and vulnerable communities by 2030. Support multilingual internet by adopting UA, IDN and Unicode.
- Ensure that critical digital technologies such as financial, governmental, and healthcare services are inclusive and accessible for persons with disabilities by promoting user-centric design and establishing audit mechanisms to enforce accessibility guidelines⁹. Mandate subsidising import duties and taxes to make assistive technologies affordable by 2027.
- Integrate digital unified payment interfaces to significantly accelerate the growth and adoption of the digital economy while enhancing financial inclusion and economic empowerment.
- G20 countries must incentivise, promote, and develop open-source software that enables long-term, customisable technology solutions at minimal cost for public procurement. At least 40% of new software contracts in government should be open-source software by the year 2028.
- Mandate publicly funded non-classified research to be available as part of the digital commons to benefit the public, industries and academia.
- Digital platforms for e-commerce should be democratised and regulated by a public authority to ensure open and fair digital commerce practices that benefit Micro, Small and Medium enterprises (MSMEs).
- G20 countries should incentivise investments in vital technological innovations that preserve life and ecosystems. Speeding up the distribution and sharing of these technologies is crucial to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Furthermore, we recommend that governments subsidise these technologies to facilitate their accessibility for the least-developed countries.

II. Security, Safety and Resilience

Widespread cybercrime and cyber insecurity are among the top 10 global risks¹². Governments, businesses, regulators and consumers are placing strategic priority on safeguarding technology ecosystems against cyber threats. While designated organisations must collect and use data to combat cybercrime¹³ and terrorism, balancing cybersecurity policies with individual rights is crucial. With the Second Additional Protocol to the Convention on Cybercrime, CSOs have expressed concern about the privacy risks posed by data sharing^{14,15}.

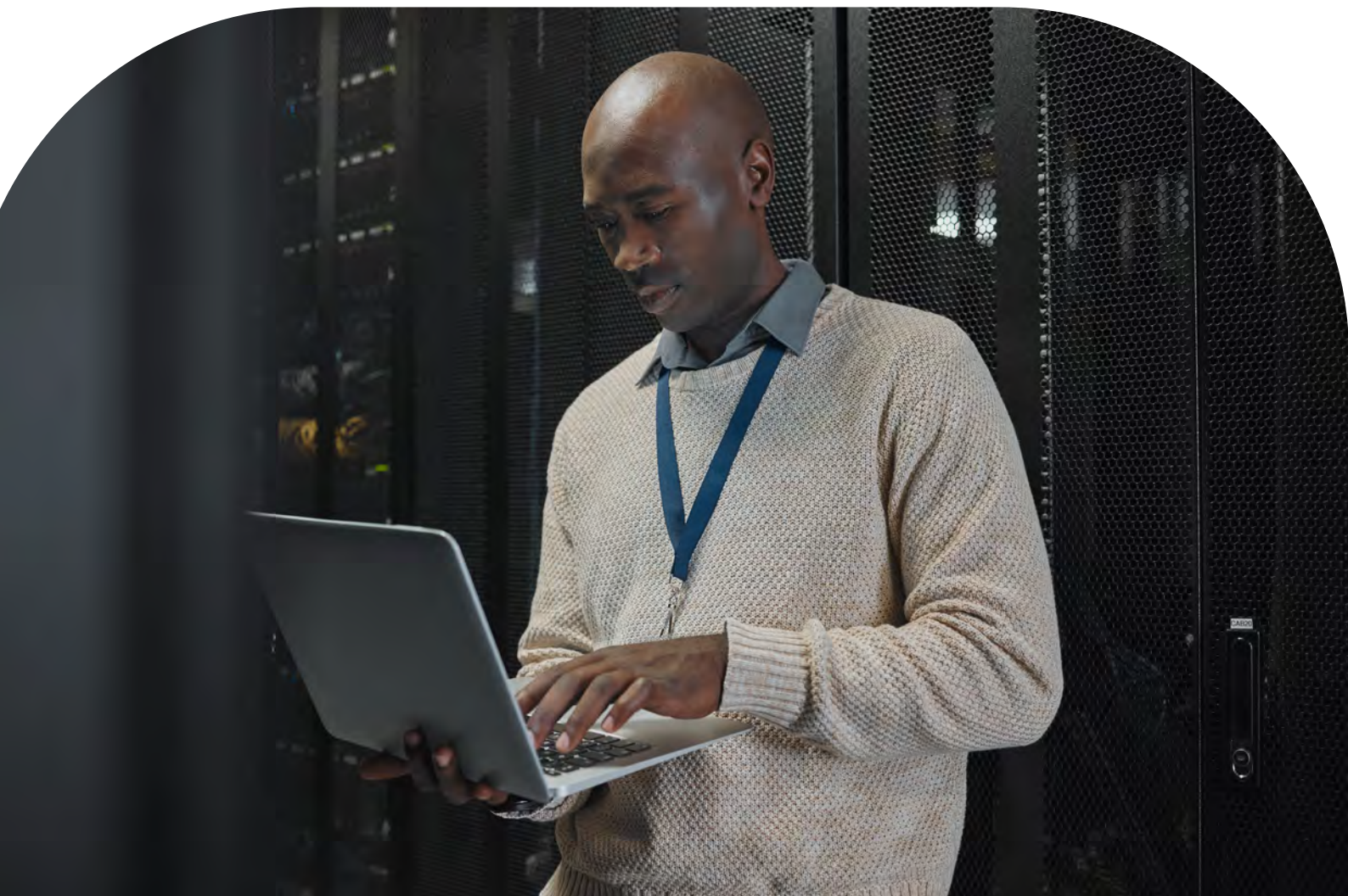
Addressing cybercrime can pose significant challenges due to the anonymous nature of virtual attackers. Targeting critical infrastructure and causing disruption of essential services such as power grids, water systems, health facilities, financial systems, and all vital services through cyber attacks can cause a colossal impact with significant ramifications to society¹⁶. The increasing complexity of cross-border cybercrime¹⁷ makes coordinating a response challenging, necessitating stronger international cooperation and information sharing between multiple stakeholders.



The majority of the general public often have limited awareness or understanding of the ever-changing landscape of cyber threats. Vulnerable populations, including the elderly, persons with disabilities, and children, are more susceptible to online threats, such as cyberbullying, asset and identity theft. Due to scarce resources, there is also a lack of cybersecurity resilience among CSOs and businesses, especially in MSMEs. The average cost of data breaches varies between 38,000 USD¹⁸ and 4.35 million USD¹⁹, depending on the organisation's size.

Cybersecurity risks threaten AI systems making them prone to error or theft and potentially destructive. Moreover, AI systems make decisions using complex functions, making it difficult to ensure transparency and explainability²⁰. These challenges are not limited to specific industries or applications but pervasive across all AI implementations and products.

As we rapidly iterate and build new technologies, we must also consider the potential negative side effects of technology that can induce overuse and potentially negatively affect users' mental and physical health.



Policy Recommendations

- Increase international cooperation in cybersecurity as provided in the Budapest Convention²¹.
- Fund and develop designated nodal agencies to enhance collective defence towards cyber threats and implement preventative measures. Facilitating collaboration between governments, the private sector, and other stakeholders is crucial to increase cybersecurity incident reporting.
- Enhance national cybersecurity policies and define mechanisms to enforce international standards and measures to safeguard cyberspace while respecting and protecting human rights.
- G20 countries should collectively recommend an additional protocol to the Geneva Convention specifically prohibiting any state from engaging in cyber attacks on critical infrastructure systems affecting civilian safety during conflict.
- Enhance cooperation between government, the judiciary, law enforcement and technology companies to mitigate online exploitation, violence or cyberbullying, especially towards children, women and persons with disabilities. Strengthen institutional mechanisms, enact comprehensive legislation, allocate resources for specialised units towards prompt investigation, impose stringent penalties, and enforce strict content moderation by 2028.
- Establish regulatory guidelines that ensure new technology releases safeguard users' physical and psychological well-being by conducting comprehensive analyses of potential negative side effects before their releases. This is especially relevant to the gaming and social media industries, whose user base is more susceptible to technology overuse.
- Develop a broad-ranging set of cybersecurity norms for AI systems, adaptable to the safety-critical nature of AI products, to prevent misuse of AI by malicious entities.

III. AI and Data for Society

2023 is likely to be remembered as the year ChatGPT, an AI language model, became a household name. The potential applications of AI are numerous, including healthcare, accessibility, research, business, and overall economic growth. It is predicted that by 2030²⁴, 70% of organisations will be using at least one type of AI technology²³. AI is expected to contribute 15.7 trillion USD to the global GDP by 2030. While AI technologies have been under development for many years, little regulation has been developed to address the considerations required for a safe and harmonious society. Efforts such as UNESCO's recommendations on integrating ethics in AI are broad, far-reaching, and exhaustive. However, they

have not been translated into concrete legislation²⁵.

One of the most significant issues in AI is the proliferation of bias and discrimination, reflected in AI algorithms and systems due to human biases and systemic inequalities collected into the datasets used to power AI. These biases lead to unfair or inaccurate decision-making, disproportionately affecting marginalised groups. While datasets are not the sole cause of bias, they are a dominant factor. Another possible risk is sensitive data leakage. Using external third-party systems may lead to mishandling personally identifiable information (PII) and similar information.



Policy Recommendations

- Develop policy mechanisms and regulatory measures to ensure that data collection and technology development are deployed and used ethically, fairly, and safely in accordance with the OECD value-based AI principles²⁶.
- Incentivize and mandate the generation of high-quality datasets for and from marginalised and underrepresented communities to correct biases in medical, financial, economic, and all generative AI applications. Foundational and current datasets should be collected, debiased, and verified by established teams of experts and stakeholders to ensure inclusivity and impartiality by 2028.
- Establish international regulations that explicitly assign liability for harms arising from technology to ensure accountability and protect users' rights and interests. It is crucial to foster collaboration between international legislative and judicial systems, technology corporations, civil society, and independent regulatory bodies; to prescribe policies for non-compliance and dispute resolution mechanisms that are fair and impartial.

IV. Transparency, Trust and Disinformation

Disinformation has become a significant threat to today's society. While costing the world a staggering 78 billion USD annually²⁷, its impact has grown significantly with the advent of social media. With 4.8 billion users²⁸, social media platforms have become primary

vehicles for spreading disinformation and polarising content. False information spreads faster on these platforms than accurate information²⁹, leading to the division of populations and increasing tensions among citizens.

Economists have recognised the correlation between trust and increased GDP³⁰. The potential risks of disinformation jeopardise the political stability and trust in established systems. Disinformation sows confusion and a lack of trust in established systems such as healthcare and scientific communities, as seen in the recent COVID-19 pandemic. It is crucial to develop approaches to address both dissemination of and response to disinformation without compromising human rights.

Moreover, the global technology supply chain, encompassing hardware and software presents a range of challenges. Recent supply chain incidents such as the WannaCry and SolarWinds attacks impacted organisations in over 150 countries, causing over 94 billion USD in losses^{31,32}. Adulteration, counterfeiting and sub-standard products are other manifestations of deficient supply chain processes that could be mitigated using technology. Addressing these concerns is vital to maintaining our global marketplace's safety, security, and reliability.

Policy Recommendations

- Facilitate global cooperation towards ending the spread of disinformation. Create a shared terminology and produce a comprehensive strategy against the spread of disinformation in congruence with UN General Assembly resolution 76/22³³.
- Establish national information networks that include professionals, news, and social media teams to track and respond to misinformation and disinformation.
- Develop an effective legal infrastructure to transfer the financial burden of the fight against disinformation to the individuals or entities responsible for its creation and propagation as set in national laws and regulations.
- Design and implement a trusted network for technology procurement, specifically focusing on G20 nations' supply chain.



Udaaharans

GLIDES

The Global Internet Governance, Digital Empowerment and Security Alliance (GLIDES)¹⁰, is an alliance of Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and the first of its kind. It is an alliance and a launchpad for multi-stakeholder policy-making processes toward security and internet governance. This alliance focuses on digital access, internet governance, inclusivity, online safety, net neutrality, data privacy, data governance, fake news, multilingual internet, and digital rights.

Team4tech

Team4Tech¹¹ is a nonprofit impact accelerator, bridging the digital equity gap in education to foster inclusion and create opportunities for under-resourced learners worldwide.

Team4Tech partners with companies on social impact projects that provide technology grants and training to build nonprofit capacity and provide opportunities for learners around the world.

Shakticon²²

ShaktiCon is an initiative for women by women that has successfully served as a platform to inspire, train, and upskill women in cybersecurity by providing an inclusive environment that showcases female talent and promotes diversity. ShaktiCon has mentored over 5,000 beneficiaries from over 70 countries worldwide in the past five years, contributing to developing a more diverse and skilled workforce.



eam4tech
anding opportunity through global connections

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A photograph of a man with a beard and glasses, wearing a white tank top, sitting in a wheelchair. He is looking out of a window. The background shows indoor plants and a wooden floor. A semi-transparent grey box is overlaid on the image, containing text.

Disability, Equity, and Justice

PwDs are among the largest minority groups in the world: 1.3 billion people—16% of the population—live with a disability, and approximately two-thirds of PwDs live in G20 countries. Research shows that PwDs in low- and middle-income countries are often ‘poorer than their nondisabled peers.’ Even in developed countries, PwDs are more likely to live in poverty.

Rights of PwDs have been advanced through the UN Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD). Moreover, in 2016, the G20 committed to align its work with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) which commits to disability inclusion and leaving no one behind.

Inclusion of PwDs, however, has yet to receive strategic planning, implementation, and resources even though lack of inclusion can cost countries up to 7% of their GDP. PwDs, particularly WwDs, are systematically excluded in education, employment, health systems and disaster response. They face barriers in accessing physical and digital spaces, and high levels of all forms of discrimination, abuse, and violence— often resulting in significant, long-standing physical and mental health consequences.

It is in the human, social, and economic interest of the global community that PwDs find budgetary allocation and commitment in implementing plans for inclusive, sustainable, and resilient growth; and are seen as active citizens, taxpayers, consumers, and nation builders. Meaningful participation of PwDs in governance at all levels is critical to effective planning and implementation, and confronting stigma and discrimination that undergirds exclusion.

Education

Context

The G20 Riyadh², Rome³, and Bali⁴ Leaders' Declarations commit to inclusive education, noting the importance of technology. The right to education for CwDs, free from discrimination, is recognized by the UNCRPD, UNESCO⁵, the SDGs⁶, and UNCRC⁷.

CwDs are 25% less likely to receive early childhood education, 33% more likely to be out of lower-secondary, and 27% more likely to be out of upper-secondary school. CwDs who attend

school experience exclusion due to inaccessibility, unidentified needs, segregation, corporal punishment, and bullying⁸. The result: lower academic achievement, 37% poorer mental health outcomes⁹, grade repetition, dropout, and limited future education and employment. They also have harder transitions to higher and tertiary education due to the stigma that discourages disclosing disabilities; inaccessible buildings, learning resources, and digital access; and inadequate inclusion¹⁰.

Recommendations

Make time-bound, concerted efforts to transform all schools and universities into cross-disability inclusive educational institutions with requisite disability policies, commitments, and human and financial resources.

Ensure full and effective participation, inclusion, and quality education for all CwDs and adults with disabilities in urban and rural areas, across socioeconomic strata, residential facilities, and in situations of conflict and disaster.

Conduct screening for early identification and support CwDs and families through early childhood education.

Ensure equitable, inclusive and accessible education through adequate funding in educational, research and training institutions across all levels in terms of design, infrastructure, and information communication technologies. This should include universal design for learning, access to reading-teaching materials online and offline, assistive devices, classrooms, toilets, exams, laboratories, libraries,

exhibitions, exposure visits, physical education, sports, etc. for all CwDs and adults with disabilities.

Support institutions to develop Personalised Education Plans (PEPs) for students with varied support needs and link financial resources with PEPs.

Ensure accessible transport and last mile connectivity for persons across disabilities to access learning institutions.

Ensure training, retraining and development of teaching and non-teaching staff and support personnel to foster inclusive learning environments.

Ensure PwDs, especially WwDs and girls with disabilities have equitable access and training for STEM, digital skills, internet and other technological devices.

Mandate all formal and informal educational institutions to institute reasonable accommodations and adopt zero-tolerance for disability discrimination. Use incentive and penalty systems to ensure enforcement.

Promote synergies between higher education institutions and job market stakeholders to ensure equal work opportunities.

Develop education financing that allows students with disabilities to cover extra disability costs. Provide free and subsidised education, scholarship and meal programmes for disadvantaged students.

Collect disaggregated data by gender, disability, caste and other markers of students with disabilities across levels, institutions and vocational trainings centres.

Include students with disabilities in all existing and future mainstream government awareness efforts, campaigns, policies, schemes, budgetary allocations.



Employment

Context

The G20 Buenos Aires, Osaka, and Bali Leaders Declarations acknowledge the labour market vulnerability of PwDs and commit to inclusive Futures of Work—including increased labour force participation through vocational training, skill development, reskilling, labour formalisation, and social protection for PwDs.

PwDs—an estimated 785 million working age persons—are marginalised in all labour markets worldwide. They are far more likely to be unemployed, underemployed or economically

inactive. Lack of attention to disability inclusion in business development policies forecloses avenues to self-employment for PwDs. Labour market exclusion of PwDs has significant macroeconomic implications.

At work, PwDs are more likely to face workplace discrimination, low wages, poor working conditions, few prospects for promotion, and heightened harassment and violence—especially persons with intellectual and psychosocial disabilities and WwDs.

Recommendations

Update labour force participation surveys to facilitate disaggregated data by gender, social identity, and disability type.

Increase labour force participation for PwDs through vocational training, skill development, reskilling, training for platform economy jobs, labour formalisation, and social protection. Ensure that mainstream technical, vocational, education, training, labour

market skills and apprenticeship programmes include PwDs.

Ensure and enforce legal protections against all forms of workplace discrimination, harassment and violence against PwDs, particularly WwDs.

Mandate and enforce the responsibility for public and private employers to ensure accessible physical and digital infrastructure and provide reasonable



accommodations to all PwDs.
Incentivise inclusion policies, including hiring targets and career development.

Ensure employers report and publish disability employment data, disaggregated by career-level, disability-type and gender.

Combat stigma around disability by highlighting contributions and capacities of PwDs across sectors; and encouraging representation of PwDs in decision-making positions on boards and in senior management.

Prioritise and commit to a set

percentage of procurement from entrepreneurs with disabilities under government procurement policies.

Provide technical and financial assistance to small and medium enterprises to promote disability inclusion, and support PwDs within the informal economy and through self-help groups.

Adapt existing business development policies and programmes to include entrepreneurs with disabilities and improve their access to specialised trainings, credit, technical and financial resources.

Health

Context

The G20 Rome¹⁸ and Bali¹⁹ Leaders' Declarations commit to Universal Health Coverage (UHC). Health equity for PwDs is essential to global health priorities— including UHC and public health interventions that contribute to healthier populations²⁰. The rights of PwDs to the same range, quality and standard of free or affordable health care is protected under the UNCRPD²¹. Accessible health infrastructure and systems must ensure PwDs are included, even during pandemics and in disaster health responses.

Research shows that PwDs receive lower levels of health care than persons without disabilities. PwDs experience health inequities arising from structural factors that generate social stratification; risk factors for disease; and barriers within health systems— including limited access to health services, social care, and rehabilitation; inadequate treatment; involuntary treatment and confinement²²; heightened discrimination, and barriers to sexual and reproductive healthcare²³. The result: poorer health outcomes, reduced life expectancy and higher mortality rates²⁴.

Recommendations

- Take urgent action to address the vast inequities in health care access for all PwDs, including those with mental health conditions, chronic illnesses and rare diseases. Take integrated action to strengthen health systems through disaggregated data collection, policymaking, financing and budgetary allocations.
- Ensure accessibility of health infrastructure at all levels (particularly within rural areas), including: physical and

digital infrastructure, access to information, and community-based rehabilitation. Train all health professionals on disability needs, and invest in installing adequate



support personnel.

- Ensure persons across disabilities are engaged at all stages of design, implementation, and monitoring of healthcare facilities and public health interventions for effective inclusion.
- Ensure all public health initiatives, programmes and curricula are disability inclusive and gender sensitive.
- Ensure availability of tax-free, duty-free, affordable assistive devices and technologies that cater to specific needs of WwDs and PwDs.
- Improve access to sexual and reproductive health rights including access to abortion.
- Include PwDs in the health and care

workforce.

- Ensure early identification, rehabilitation and ongoing support to CwDs with rare diseases.
- Mandate provision of full medical insurance with no discrimination by public and private players to all PwDs, including the elderly, and people living with mental health conditions, rare diseases and chronic illnesses.
- Ensure informed consent and supported decision making for PwDs, particularly persons living with psychosocial and intellectual disabilities prior to initiating any health procedures or treatments.
- Collaborate in advancing the development of specialised medications and vaccines for various disabilities, including improved availability and affordability.
- Ensure that mainstream health schemes for physical, mental and women's health include needs of PwDs.
- Streamline procurement of disability certificates at local levels for all including those with invisible disabilities and fluid conditions.



Environment, Climate & Disaster Response

Context

The G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration²⁵ commits to address disproportionate impacts of environmental disasters on vulnerable communities. As disproportionately impacted communities, PwDs must be included in mitigating climate change. However, they do not currently have access to information and inclusion on an equal basis with others. The rights of PwDs to equal protection from weather events and climate disasters is protected under UNCRPD, ICESCR, and ICCPR. The SDG targets also call for ensuring participation of PwDs in climate action and disaster risk reduction.

PwDs are particularly vulnerable to environmental and climate-driven disasters—including cyclones, floods, heat waves, and severe storms. PwDs may be less able to access warnings and emergency information, left behind during evacuation, require access to medications and assistive aids, experience greater challenges accessing basic needs, and face discrimination when resources are scarce. PwDs are also excluded from disaster risk reduction policies, plans, and programmes and therefore particularly at risk in the aftermath of disasters²⁶.

Recommendations

- Ensure that PwDs are included in environment and climate justice discussions and initiatives.
- Comply with existing commitments on climate finance, including the agreed upon and overdue \$100 billion/year climate finance commitment to support adaptation to climate change with a 50/50 split between funding for mitigation and adaptation. This funding should prioritise the most vulnerable countries and communities, including PwDs.
- Rapidly reduce emissions, stop subsidising fossil fuels, and end new fossil fuel projects to prevent catastrophic climate outcomes and protect the rights of vulnerable populations.

- Include PwDs and their needs in design, implementation, communication and monitoring at all stages of disaster management processes, policies, plans and programmes – including during mitigation, planning and preparedness, rehabilitation and reconstruction.
- Put rights-based mental health support at the centre of policies related to humanitarian and climate-related responses.
- Ensure timely and appropriate health care including sanitation and hygiene, especially for WwDs, during extreme weather events and disasters.
- Invest in accessible infrastructure to ensure evacuation centres and shelter homes are accessible during disasters. Ensure reconstructed infrastructure is resilient to future hazards and accessible to PwDs.
- Collect disaggregated data on location of PwDs, their vulnerabilities and needs during extreme weather events and environmental disasters. Maintain real-time records and a digital database of PwDs for urgent disaster response and management.
- Ensure multi-stakeholder collaboration—including civil society, disabled persons organisations (DPOs), government, businesses and industry—in developing climate resilient community action-plans.



Poverty Reduction, Social Protection, & Sustainable Development

Context

The G20 Riyadh Leaders' Declaration emphasised the disproportionate impact of COVID-19 on vulnerable communities, committed to reducing inequalities and promoting inclusive growth, and highlighted the importance of social protection for all²⁷. The right to social protection for PwDs is upheld by the UNCRPD²⁸ and UDHR²⁹.

PwDs are more likely to experience adverse socioeconomic outcomes than persons without disabilities, such as less education, worse health outcomes,

less employment, and higher poverty rates. Accordingly, social protection is critical to support PwDs to develop more resilient livelihoods and break free from long-term poverty traps. Where social protection programmes are in place, however, PwDs currently face barriers to accessing protection, including: inaccessible procedures and centres, discrimination from programme administrators, conditional benefits, inadequate needs assessments, and lack of information on programmes, eligibility, and access pathways³⁰.

Recommendations

- Ensure access by PwDs, in particular women, girls and older PwDs, to CRPD compliant social protection and poverty reduction programmes³¹.
- Provide direct financial assistance to individuals and households in need, including through disability-specific cash transfers, pensions, targeted subsidies, employment support and incentives, means-tested benefits, and financial inclusion and counselling.
- Provide insurance protection for PwDs, including income replacement; vocational rehabilitation and job retention programmes to address unemployment; and disability insurance and rehabilitation support in case of sickness or disability related challenges.

- Provide social insurance coverage, benefits or allowances to compensate for income loss due to caregiving responsibilities incurred by caregivers, including family members of PwDs.
- Address the mental health needs of PwDs, including through access to counselling services, psychosocial support, and mental health interventions.



Inclusive Communities and Societies

Context

In order to foster inclusive communities and societies, G20 countries should take measures to remove physical, social, and attitudinal barriers that lead to the widespread exclusion of PwDs across domains. To this end, G20

countries should promote integrated and independent living, access to assistive devices and technology, and participation of PwDs; and take urgent measures to counteract stigma, discrimination and violence.

Recommendations

- Adopt accessibility standards and Universal Design Principles in developing and retrofitting infrastructure, including: transportation systems, public buildings, housing, educational institutions, health centres, parks, sidewalks, and other essential facilities.
- Develop a time-bound plan and allocate budgets to deinstitutionalise CwDs and PwDs, through supported and independent community living options, and personalised support services.
- Set new standards and benchmarks to promote inclusive and accessible public procurement of assistive devices and technology.
- Formulate a joint policy across countries for technology transfer among member and non-member countries, specifically targeting nations that lack the capability to manufacture devices and assistive technologies.
- Subsidise costs of assistive devices through grants and low interest loans.
- Allocate resources for research and development of affordable assistive devices and technology.
- Establish partnerships with start-ups and industries to develop low- and high-tech assistive tools tailored to local languages and contexts.
- End stigma by conducting awareness campaigns and programmes to promote inclusion of PwDs in social, economic, cultural, political, and community spaces.
- Encourage participation of PwDs in public discourse by ensuring that all public communication is accessible across disabilities.
- Include PwDs in leadership and decision making at all levels of local governance and civic and public life, including international policy making forums.

- Strengthen and enforce legal frameworks to end all forms of violence against PwDs.
- Provide accessible pathways to access justice, redressal mechanisms and support services, including counselling, legal assistance, and rehabilitation, to disabled survivors of violence and abuse.
- Provide training for law enforcement officers, healthcare providers, social workers, and educators on identifying and responding to discrimination and violence faced by WwDs and PwDs.
- Collect disability and gender disaggregated data on discrimination and violence against PwDs.

This Policy Brief was developed through consultations with over 2500 persons with and without disabilities across 35 countries.



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SDG16 Plus & Promoting Civic Space

Today the world is witnessing geopolitical issues that are challenging international security and multilateralism. Additionally, the global scene has pushed donor funds to focus on military expenditures rather than allocating resources towards conflict prevention, peacekeeping and improving people's lives. Finally, the limited opportunities to collaborate on SDG implementation in the sphere of existing fragmented coordination at the national level also poses its own challenges. Non-governmental actors need to be involved in projects to achieve real outcomes and sustainability. Structural obstacles, lack of political will, and lack of commitment to foster inclusive partnerships are hindering effective collaboration.

Governments have promised to reduce violence and conflict, but accountability and transparency remains a major problem. Recognition and urgency for a committed and strong partnership is needed apart from ensuring National

Commitments to SDG Transformation with transparent and inclusive platform for showcasing these commitments, helping to ensure follow-up and accountability.

Introduction

The year 2022 was confronted with an increase in global instability that included increased violence, persecutions, demonstrations, and divisions. No region or continent is free from conflict and this has escalated and expanded with instability, military coups and perilous humanitarian conditions where civilians are the primary target of armed conflicts and violence. The Russia Ukraine conflict further highlights that even states upholding strong democratic credentials have been forced to engage with security dilemmas rather than build on conflict resolution strategies.

Recognizing the geopolitical challenges, the world is facing today, we are witnessing an increasingly global trend the shrinking civil society space. While social media and the digital paradigm

has given a voice to the voiceless, it has also given a stronger voice to calls for armament and securitization. This in turn has led to polarized perspectives that impact global governance institutions. The collateral damage from this is backsliding of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Another collateral damage of this polarization is that facts-based discussions are countered with value-laden claims resulting in misinformation.

Recognition and urgency for a committed and strong partnership to take action as stated in the previous Rome Civil Society Declaration SDG16+ in 2019, 2021 and 2022 is urgently needed in order to reduce the gap between different polarized viewpoints.

1. Promises that couldn't be achieved

Despite multiple promises, many people still lack access to justice, particularly the poor, vulnerable and marginalized communities in different parts of the world. Governments have committed to building effective, accountable, and inclusive institutions, but many institutions are still weak and ineffective. For example, the police and judiciary in many countries are often accused of being corrupt and lacking independence. Notwithstanding

commitments to promote gender equality, women and girls continue to face discrimination and violence in many parts of the world with child marriage and female genital mutilation still prevalent in many countries. Despite commitments to promote peaceful and inclusive societies, governments have not been able to deliver and are found to be lacking in multiple dimensions, as mentioned above.

2. G20 and the SDG 16 Plus Agenda

The G20 signed up for the SDGs in 2016 by adopting the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. Without the support of all G20 countries to SDG16+, the international community's collective commitment to fostering peaceful, just, and inclusive societies is deemed to fail. Member countries have committed to work across the relevant G20 working groups and streams to contribute to implementing the 2030 Agenda and follow up on collective actions through existing accountability processes and follow-up mechanisms.

In 2018, the G20 made commitments to review progress on its Action Plan. G20's commitment to empowering

local grassroots civil society groups is crucial to ensuring the implementation of SDG16+ and that the 2030 Agenda is community-led. As we reach the halfway point to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, civil society has called on the G20 to intervene and take bold actions - including through substantial financial commitments. Steps taken by the Indian G20 Presidency in its Action Plan 2023 such as the High-Level Principles, Financing for Accelerating Progress on SDGs, Targeted Actions for Transformative Transition Areas and the High Level Principles on Data for Development would assist in planning the next steps for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

3. Analysis

In line with the UN Secretary-General's calls, we urge Member States, UN bodies, multilateral agencies, donors, the private sector, CSOs, think tanks, academic institutions, and others to congregate and collectively work

on advancing and bringing progress on SDG16+ for the realisation of peaceful and inclusive societies with the following priorities for 2023, G20 Presidency.

A. Promoting Civic Space

It is essential that sufficient civic space is available for civil society around the world to enable it to fulfil the role envisaged for it as part of a multi-stakeholder approach to the implementation, follow up and review of the 2030 Agenda.

Despite the clear aim of target 16.10 to protect fundamental freedoms, existing global-level indicators adopted to date by the international community to assess progress do not adequately measure the extent to which these basic freedoms are being protected. Unfortunately, the Voluntary National



Reviews submitted by UN Member States between the years 2016-2022 have not addressed the issue of closing civic space or how the challenges and systemic barriers facing civil society in achieving the SDGs are being tackled.

The United Nations has identified participation and civic space as one of the key areas to focus its attention. Under the overall aspiration of the Call to Action, the Guidance Note

on the Protection and Promotion of Civic Space adopted emphasises that strategic and effective civic space action hinges on stepped up action around the 3 Ps-Participation in UN processes, Protection of civil society actors through clear protocols and procedures and Promotion of civic space and participation in national decision making processes, both online and offline.

B. Preventing illicit financial flows, stolen assets and organized crime

The latest trade related illicit financial flows (IFFs) from a report published in 2020 by Global Financial Integrity (GFI) estimates \$8.7 trillion between 2000 and 2018. It is estimated that \$20 billion and \$40 billion in stolen assets are moved across borders every year, and the growing influence of criminal networks in the digital realm, as well as the increased use of violence by criminal groups to maintain control over their operations have cost implications highlighting the significant scale of this problem and the impact it has on achieving the SDG 16+ targets. There is an urgent need for action to promote

greater transparency and accountability through measures such as strengthening anti-corruption laws and policies, increasing financial transparency and accountability, and supporting international cooperation to prevent



illicit financial flows, stolen assets and organized crime.

The G20 Indian Presidency has included asset recovery, information sharing and integrity and effectiveness of public bodies under its anti-corruption priorities for 2023. In the past, the G20 has adopted various High-Level Principles, including on Cooperation on Persons Sought for Corruption

and Asset Recovery, Mutual Legal Assistance, Beneficial Ownership Transparency, Public Procurement. It created a Step-By-Step Guide to Requesting Mutual Legal Assistance from G20 Countries and formed the Global Operational Network of Anti-Corruption Law Enforcement Authorities (GlobE). It has also sought to address these issues by making specific commitments to

1. implement the The United Nations Convention against Corruption (UNCAC), which includes provisions related to asset recovery, anti-money laundering, and cooperation between law enforcement agencies.
2. implement high-level principles on asset recovery, which provide guidance on issues such as asset tracing, asset freezing, and mutual legal assistance.
3. promote greater transparency around beneficial ownership of companies and other legal entities, which can help prevent illicit financial flows and money laundering.
4. strengthen efforts to counter the financing of terrorism, including through implementation of enhanced cooperation between financial intelligence units and law enforcement agencies.
5. promote greater transparency and accountability in public sector institutions, including through measures such as open data initiatives, public reporting on budget and spending, implementing anti-bribery laws, enhancing whistle-blower protection, and promoting competition, enhancing transparency, and preventing conflicts of interest in public procurement.

However, there are still significant gaps in implementation and progress. The G20 ACWG 2020 Accountability Report, for instance, highlighted the lack of timely provision of mutual legal agreements, inflexibility in legal measures, the absence of minimum tools to trace, freeze, and confiscate the proceeds of corruption, and undefined

focal points for cooperation on issues of AML and asset recovery. There is a lack of coordination and cooperation among G20 member states on addressing illicit financial flows, including in terms of information sharing and enforcement apart from a lack of political will to address illicit financial flows.

5. Udaaharans

India's efforts towards the G20 accountability of Anti-Corruption Working Group

India gave a Nine Point Agenda for Action Against Fugitive Economic Offences and Asset Recovery to the Argentina G20 presidency where It called for strong and active cooperation across G20 countries in legal processes and mechanisms to deny safe haven to all fugitive economic offenders.

Indian Presidency is now focussing on five broad themes in G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group namely International cooperation for strengthening fight against corruption, Integrity and Effectiveness of Public Bodies and Authorities Responsible for Preventing and Combating Corruption,



Role of audit institutions in anti-corruption, Leveraging Information and Communications Technology (ICT) for combating corruption in the public sector and most importantly gender and corruption. India is also preparing a compendium of good practices of G20 ACWG members regarding enhancing the role of auditing in tackling corruption.

Localizing SDGs and Whole of Society Approach in Japan

According to Hamamatsu City Plan for Human Right Policy Promotion, in order to prevent child abuse and for improved early detection and response, personnel are actively put in place including social workers, clinical therapists, and public health nurses, aiming to expand support based on more expert knowledge and techniques, and as part of measures to provide family care environments for victims of child abuse, the city is raising public awareness on its foster parent system.

The Court of Justice of the European Union (CJEU)

CJEU issued a ruling on beneficial ownership registries in the case of Austria v. Germany (C-648/17) in October 2019. The CJEU ultimately ruled that EU law does not prevent member states from requiring companies to disclose information on their beneficial owners to a central register, as long as certain conditions are met. The ruling is significant for the fight against money laundering and other financial crimes, as beneficial ownership information is a critical tool for identifying and tracing illicit financial flows.

Recommendations

a. Promoting Civic Space

- ◆ Key international bodies should encourage national governments to enact laws which regulate in a fair way ensuring the existence of healthy civic and democratic spaces. In this regard, the adoption of civic space indicators as part of the monitoring framework of SDG 16+ would provide important leverage for civil society organisations to communicate with the governments to demonstrate progress on the promotion and protection of civic space nationally as part of annual review processes.
- ◆ We call on governments and the international community to expand citizen-generated data and all other “non-official” data sources.

b. Preventing illicit financial flows, stolen assets and organized crime

- ◆ Ensure faster, wider, and more effective use of mutual legal assistance through the application of a Mutual Recognition Agreement among G20 Members. These should include mutual enforcement of “freeze and confiscate” orders, authentication of public records, and transparency of documents. When assets are returned they need to be aligned to GFAR principles, including through the engagement of civil society and community groups to support the transparency of this process.
- ◆ Define and commit to global standards on beneficial ownership transparency, i.e. the disclosure of the ultimate owners of an entity- in a central, public registry with free and open data, and supported by international cooperation on these issues among law enforcement agencies.
- ◆ Ensure all member countries are party to the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention and private sector bribery is criminalized in line with UNCAC provisions. Policies and procedures for several acts of high-risk corruption- including bribery toward domestic and foreign civil servants, bribery towards a third party, facilitation payments, gratification, political donations, and social donations- should be in line with the G20 High-Level Principles on Private Sector Transparency & Integrity.

c. Financial Commitments towards the Delivery of SDG 16 Plus

- ◆ The flow of global aid, and in particular an increased percentage of ODA flows should be targeted at funding the promotion and protection of human rights and civic space, increasing the sense of security for communities everywhere, and promoting fair access to the law and to information.
- ◆ Civil society actors, especially grassroots communities, face structural financial barriers that must be addressed by the financial architecture of public development banks.
- ◆ The G20 must also come to the SDGs Summit with financial commitments

- including around domestic resource mobilisation and budgetary commitments to deliver on the SDGs. For donors, this also includes financial commitments towards SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda, which can also play a key role in helping donors meet their commitments to 0.7% of GDP for development cooperation.
- ◆ We strongly support the Secretary-General's call for an ambitious "SDGs Stimulus Plan", which calls for an additional \$500 billion per year towards sustainable development financing.
- ◆ We reiterate our call from the 2023 Rome Declaration for donors to develop and invest in a comprehensive donor-collaborative "Global SDG16+ Fund".
- ◆ We support the call for expanding measurement of economic progress to a "Beyond GDP" model.
- ◆ G20 and the international community must make efforts to solve the increasingly urgent sovereign debt crisis. To do so, debt cancellation or restructuring must be considered, as well as other innovative mechanisms such as "debt swaps" that will further incentivize action towards SDG16+ and the 2030 Agenda overall.
- ◆ The G20 countries should take measures to effectively involve companies, international financial institutions and communities in the implementation of global agendas and demand transparency and credibility around their contributions

d. Recognizing and utilising SDG16+ as an enabler for achieving the 2030 Agenda & responding to current global crises

- ◆ We call on the United Nations and its partners to ensure that "National Commitments to SDG Transformation" called for by the Secretary-General are adequately compiled and tracked around the SDGs Summit, including by providing a transparent and inclusive platform for showcasing these commitments, helping to ensure follow-up and accountability.
- ◆ We reiterate our call for SDG16+ to be reviewed annually at the HLPF going forward, including through the negotiations around the review of the HLPF modalities taking place in 2024. This affirms that SDG16 strongly links with all other goals, in line with the integrated and indivisible nature of the 2030 Agenda.



Human Rights as Human Values

The Preamble of United Nations' Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that "recognition of the inherent dignity and of the equal and inalienable rights of all members of the human family is the foundation of freedom, justice, and peace in the world. Whereas it is essential if the man is not compelled to have recourse, as a last resort, to rebellion against tyranny and oppression, that human rights should be protected by the rule of law". [1]

The UNESCO Valencia Declaration of Responsibilities and Human Duties (1998) states that “States have a general responsibility to implement and respect all the provisions related to Human Rights”. If people are duty conscious, the country and its institutions automatically follow the duties without any deviance. The human rights debate necessarily calls us into the sense of shared responsibility and the common good. Rights and duties have an

inseparable relationship. If people do their duty according to the established norms of society and their conscience, they can have a better life. While such norms may not be common to all societies, they must adhere to accepted norms such as those established under the International Covenants of Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR) as well as Economic Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR).

Evolution of Human Rights

The genesis of the modern concept of human rights may be traced back to the ideas of the French philosophers, which triggered the revolution in France in the late eighteenth century. The slogan of the French Revolution, i.e. “liberty, equality and fraternity”, was the first formal declaration of the dignity of humanity. Human rights enshrined in ancient Indian literature reflect the message of equality and brotherhood. The Rigveda, which is regarded as the oldest spiritual tract in India calls

on all humanity to “live together, talk together, and know each other’s minds; may your consultations and assemblies be unified, may your minds and intellects be common; may your resolutions be united, and your hearts beat in unison; may your minds unite to make you happy.” It shows that the Indian value system discusses equality, harmony, and fraternity. Human dignity is the tradition and culture of ancient India.

Ancient Indian texts (Vedas, Dharmashastras, Itihasas and the Arthshastra) speak of the duties of kings, judges and subjects, as well as of norms of justice and judicial procedures. The foundation of human rights in these ancient times revolved around the concepts of Dharma (duty) and Danda, which regulated the

governance of the state and the duties of citizens. The foundation of human rights in Sanatan Dharma encompasses a moral code, righteousness and responsibilities.[3] Human rights have always been paramount in India's rich legacy because India believed in the principle of "Vashudhaiva-Kutumbakam" (*The world is one family*).

Education & Human Rights

Human rights and fundamental freedoms help us to develop our intrinsic qualities, intelligence, talents, and conscience to meet our material and spiritual needs. It is pertinent to underline that, without recognizing the right to education, realisation of the right to development of every human being is impossible. Article 26 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (1948) states that "education shall be directed to the full development of the human personality and to the strengthening of respect for human rights and fundamental freedoms".[4] Moreover, education promotes understanding, tolerance,

and friendship among all nations and social or religious groups. Historically, education has been an instrument of development and an important factor in social change. Human rights and education are inarguably two of the most important factors in realising other human rights, ranging from protection of the environment to empowerment of children, women, and other vulnerable sections of society. The right to education and its relevance for nation-building and holistic development of societies require the child to gain knowledge in a safe and discrimination-free environment that protects her from exploitation.

Human Rights and Gender Issues

The preamble to the United Nations Charter sets forth women's equality with men, as does Article 1 of the Universal Declaration of Human Rights (UDHR), which describes that "women are born free and equal in dignity and rights. Moreover, women and men are endowed with reason and conscience and should act towards one another in a spirit of sisterhood and brotherhood."

[5] At the very heart of this concept is the understanding that women are autonomous individuals fully capable of determining the course of their lives, and possessing independent agency to act for themselves and for others. Indian philosophical belief is that man and woman make absolute human beings, as symbolised in the concept

of Ardhanaareeswara, where Iswara, the creator, is depicted as half-man and half-woman. Notwithstanding the elements of patriarchy in the Hindu philosophical tradition, women occupied superior positions on par with men. In the Sanskrit language, strength and power are feminine qualities - 'Shakti' means "Power" or "Strength" and all powers, including in males, were said to originate from the feminine.

The position of women in a society is the true index of its social, economic, cultural and spiritual attainment.

India is moving fast from the concept of women's development to women-led development. Women's economic empowerment is an important agenda of the G20 summit.



Divyang (Disabilities) and Human Rights

The United Nations Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (UNCRPD) has reframed the nature of the disability from a personal impairment, resulting in activity limitation, to a form of social oppression caused by discrimination and a denial of citizenship and civic participation. Disability inclusion and enhancing accessibility are crucial to

achieving Sustainable Development Goals and health for all. It is difficult to achieve “Universal health coverage” and health for all without providing quality health services equally to persons with disabilities.[6] Therefore, investing in universal health coverage for persons with disabilities will benefit individuals and communities.

Environment and Human Rights

Protection of the environment and protection of human rights are global issues affecting people, communities and our planet worldwide. The environment and human rights are closely inter-connected, as environmental degradation adversely impacts human rights, such as the right to life, health, hygiene, sanitation, sustainable lifestyles, access to resources, and, generally, a clean

environment. Therefore, protecting the environment is important to safeguard human rights, ensure sustainable development and live together peacefully. The right to life, human dignity, health, food, shelter, and water is at risk when communities are forced to migrate due to climate change. Environmental pollution, including air and water pollution, also significantly threatens human rights.

Media and Human Rights

Article 19 of the UN's Universal Declaration of Human Rights states: "Everyone has the right to freedom of opinion and expression; this right includes freedom to hold opinions without interference and to seek, receive and impart information and ideas through any media and regardless of frontiers." [7]

"The hallmark of a strong democracy is an active civil society. Civil society and media serve as an important link between governments and the public, as they provide public concerns to authorities, press governments to share critical updates and promote

government accountability and transparency." [8]

The advent of the internet has introduced "new" media, including information communication technologies, the internet, websites, and social media platforms like Twitter, Facebook, YouTube and Instagram.

Media has an important role when it comes to promotion and protection of human rights. It gives people a platform or means for their voices to be heard, raises awareness of specific human rights issues, exposes violations and acts of discrimination, and empowers people to act.



LGBTQIA and Human Rights

LGBTQIA (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex and Asexual /Agender) individuals face discrimination and violations of their basic rights in many parts of the world. They also face barriers to accessing education, employment, housing, and healthcare due to their sexual orientation or gender identity. The principles of human rights such

as non-discrimination, equality, and freedom from violence and persecution apply to all individuals, regardless of sexual orientation or gender identity. Advocating for LGBTQIA rights and ensuring their protection is essential to promote human dignity, social justice, and equal treatment under the law.

Democracy, Good Governance and Human Rights

Human rights are inextricably linked with democratic governance. Nurturing good governance underpins and is essential to ensuring respect for human rights. History teaches us that transparent, responsible, accountable, and participatory governance is a prerequisite to enduring respect

for human dignity and fundamental freedoms. Democracy is an essential condition for the protection of human rights. Human rights cannot be respected and protected sustainably without good governance.

Cultural Rights and Human Rights

Human rights and cultural rights are inter-related concepts that play a crucial role in ensuring the dignity and well-being of individuals in society. Cultural rights include practising one's religion or language, participating in cultural events and celebrations, and accessing cultural education and resources. The rights identified in the International Covenant for Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) are essential to a just, equitable, harmonious society.

Indigenous peoples are often marginalized and face different kinds

of discrimination in the State's legal systems, violence, and abuse. The United Nations Declaration on the Rights of Indigenous Peoples (UNDRIP) states in Articles 9 and 33 that indigenous peoples have the right to belong to an indigenous community or nation in accordance with the traditions and customs of the community or nation concerned and that they have the right to determine their own identity.”[9] At the same time, human rights provide the foundation for a society that respects the dignity and worth of every individual and cultural



rights, and recognise the importance of cultural diversity and how culture is expressed in varying ways. The challenge is in ensuring these rights are protected and promoted in a way that respects and preserves different communities' cultural identity and heritage while upholding universal human rights principles. While cultural practices are an important part of cultural identity and heritage, they cannot be allowed to violate universal human rights norms.



Child Rights and Human Rights



Children's human rights are violated every day in many parts of the world. Human rights related to children are often disproportionately impacted by the highest risks arising from poverty, malnourishment and abuse. The Universal Declaration of Human Rights stipulated under para of Article 25 states that childhood is entitled to special care and assistance.

Recommendations

The C20 policy brief on Human Rights invites G20 leaders to adopt a stronger position towards promoting

and protecting Human rights. The recommendations call upon G20 members,

1. To promote education as an innovative vision and mission for the cornerstones of sustainable growth and stability. All G20 members should encourage cooperation in education for sustainable development. Furthermore, it is expected to advance women's and girls' equal access to inclusive and quality education. In addition, they have to promote coordination between employment and equitable, quality education policies.
2. To identify that gender equality is critical for economic growth and equitable and sustainable development. Therefore, G20 leaders should commit to promoting initiatives to end discrimination against women. It will help to reduce gender gaps and inequality, as envisaged under the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.
3. To protect and advance democratic values and human rights by promoting democracy, human rights, and good governance programmes at various levels. The G20 countries should initiate such programmes as to ensure these values are imbibed by the individuals in their day-to-day lives.
4. To provide all necessary assistance to the countries that cannot afford quality health services for persons with disabilities. The G20 members must ensure access to equitable and effective health services for persons with disabilities across the world.
5. To protect the rights of LGBTQIA persons, G20 members must play a constructive role, at both bilateral and multilateral levels, to promote and protect the human rights of LGBTQIA people and work closely with civil society organizations to advance their human rights.
6. To promote harmonious and cooperative relations between State and indigenous peoples. The G20 members should work towards accepting the rights of the indigenous people.
7. To expand the civic space by ensuring the inclusion of civil society and making them a stakeholder in the policy formulation. The G20 members should regularly consult the civic society and prepare a

multi-layered model of policy formulation.

8. To address climate change and other environmental issues, the G20 members should broaden their scope encompassing economic, social, cultural and political dimensions of human rights. Climate change should be addressed not just at the macro level but at the micro level. LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment) must be promoted by the G20 members.
9. To adopt a holistic approach to protecting human rights in both the physical and digital realms. This will need to be done through differentiated actions to address new and emerging risks. As work is done to advance technical skills and competencies, G20 countries may need to ensure respect for human rights and non-discrimination in the digital world through adequate attention, legislative provisions, regulatory frameworks, and mechanisms for their effective implementation.
10. To promote cultural diversity and respect multilateralism through dialogue, G20 members should encourage an atmosphere of engaging in open and respectful discussions for the individuals and communities through which they can develop relationships based on

mutual respect and understanding enabling them to work together to promote human rights and cultural diversity.

11. To promote respect for democratic values as well as for diversity, inclusion and mutual respect with special reference to preserving the interests of the weaker sections of society.
12. To protect all human rights in an era where non-State actors often play a negative role. Globalization has meant that non-State actors are more involved than ever in violations of human rights. While globalization has enhanced the ability of civil society to function across borders and promote human rights, other actors have gained the power to violate human rights in unforeseen ways. The G20 members must create conditions and put in place policies that would reduce the adverse impact of market forces and gross violations of human rights.
13. To follow the principle of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (the world is one family) and promote values of co-existence. The G20 members must promote value-based education that can shape various perspectives and norms. Values and norms could play a very important role in protecting Human Rights.

CONCLUSION

As global citizens, it is our duty to promote humanity and the sustainable future of the planet. To achieve this, our foremost objective should be to become good human beings. We appeal to the G20 leaders to protect human

rights as human values, stressing our duties towards the planet and to all its creatures, to reduce inequalities and protect the most vulnerable. Our priority must be the sustainability of life and the welfare of all.

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Diversity, Inclusion, Mutual Respect

Diversity, Equity and Inclusion are terms used to describe policies and programs that promote the representation and participation of different groups of individuals and encompass people of different ages, races, ethnicities, abilities, disabilities, genders, religions, cultures and sexual orientations. The term Equity is essential for Inclusion but if Diversity is to be sustainable it must be accompanied by Mutual Respect.

This is the rationale that led this year's C20 Working Group to adopt the theme of Diversity, Inclusion, and Mutual Respect. 'Mutual Respect' is essential for Diversity and Inclusion to flourish in a harmonious society. The need for a diverse approach to development was recognized by the leaders of G20 for the first time in 2005. The G20 communique

of 2005 said, "We recognized there is no uniform development approach that fits all countries. Each country should be able to choose the development approaches and policies that best suit its specific characteristics...". The recognition of diverse approaches and methods further needs to be taken forward in other areas of social life.

The Diversity Inclusion and Mutual Respect Working Group considered four sub-themes:

1. Respecting native traditions all over the world and their representation

The combination of imperialism, commercialism, and exclusive religious and political ideologies have driven various native traditions to the wall to the extent that some have almost become extinct. But these traditions (including Indian traditions) have prominently contributed to protection of environment and biodiversity by their very practices. Their traditional wisdom about protection of environment, harmonious social life, herbal knowledge and skills are

very important for the world. They should be supported and given the place and prominence in international forums. The world saw biased research towards traditional cultures, customs, communities discrediting them as evil, false, backward and superstitious with governmental machinery being used to establish these biases. The tangible and intangible damage caused to these communities has affected them profoundly and remains unrepaired to this day.

Today it is generally acknowledged even by the United Nations that “there is an urgent need for new approach... which emphasize(s) harmony among people and between humans and nature, equity, dignity, well-being and sustainability. These new approaches should fully acknowledge the role of culture as a system of values and a resource and framework to build truly sustainable development.... We recognize that one size does not fit all and that different cultural perspectives will result in different paths to

development. At the same time, we embrace an understanding of culture that is open, evolving and strongly framed within a rights-based approach and respect for diversity, free access to which enables individuals “to live and be what they choose”, thus enhancing their opportunities and human capabilities while promoting mutual understanding and exchange among peoples.” [1]



Recommendations

G20 governments must:

- ◆ **Establish research centres** for the study of diverse indigenous communities to find solutions from traditional wisdom of indigenous/traditional communities, solving complex global problems.
- ◆ **Voice and support the traditional communities** in the remotest parts of all countries who have been practicing sustainable development with unique mechanisms suiting their environmental, material, intellectual and spiritual needs.
- ◆ **Legislate “Right to Culture”** or way of life by governments all over the world- it forms a fundamental principle of cultural freedom, freedom of thought, well-being, expression, religion, faith, forms, etc.
- ◆ **Stop religious intolerance,** terrorism, intolerance towards ancient ways of life by means of vandalism of ancient monuments, places of worship, academic terrorism by academically disputing and misrepresenting ancient cultures.
- ◆ **Establish a department** for the promotion of indigenous faith and culture.
- ◆ **Include ancient native philosophy and cultural values** included in textbooks to make it a part of the educational system to mould the future generations to save natural resources, degradation of earth, environmental pollution, and to prevent conflicts, wars, etc.
- ◆ **Bring the native medical knowledge and practices** into the mainstream to help over-burdened modern medical system, which will be a low cost–high benefit method to help the world.
- ◆ **Have a G20 forum for networking and exchange** among traditional communities where representatives of native cultures of the world would meet annually to support native skills, wisdom traditions, regional herbs and food for better health, to save species at the brink of extinction, reduce global warming, prevent ethnic strife, restore ecological balance, etc.

2. Persons with physical and mental disabilities, economically backward sections, and children born with HIV/AIDS who need special care and acceptance in the society.

About 15% of the world's population lives with some form of disability, of whom 2-4% experience significant difficulties in functioning ¹. Around 970 million people suffer from mental disabilities ². It is acknowledged that many social, economic and infrastructural changes have been witnessed in the 21st century to suit persons with disabilities. However, these are not adequate to address the needs of persons with disabilities (PWD). People affected by various physical, sensory, motor, neuro-

physiological, behavioural, cognitive or multiple challenges have impediments to live life with happiness and to contribute to the progress of a family and society when they are not treated with holistic care. When their impediments are well-handled, then, instead of dependency, the PWDs can contribute in multiple ways and shoulder bigger responsibilities. The imparting of value education should include information about disabilities and how society/family should care for it and work for its cure.

Recommendations

- ◆ **Early identification and early intervention** with AI apps, referral network, eco-system for functional independence, technology-solutions catering for special needs, tax incentives for the products that are vital for successful rehabilitation.
- ◆ **Knowledge bases** relevant to disability and intervention systems should be built and libraries with information and databases should be accessible in most global languages.

- ◆ Measures to give concessions and reservations for education and jobs to the economically weaker sections to cross over the poverty line.
- ◆ **Rehabilitation training:** Educational curriculum at school level should include inputs about different types of disabilities and their management. For example, medical education should accommodate the basics of early interventions and rehabilitation services.
- ◆ **HIV- affected children** since birth should be provided with timely medical support at hospitals/ health-centres. Designated medical facilities in a district can nominate a section to treat HIV-affected persons

3. Persons irrespective of their biological sex identity, sexual orientation and gender identity and expression need to live with respect in society by respecting each other.

Though under the acronym LGBTQ+ (Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer, Intersex, Asexual etc.) all the persons with different sexual orientation and gender identity (SOGIEISC, as they are now referred to) are included it was found that the needs of each group is different. Thus,

to take care of the rights and needs of all these persons the formulation of policies should be more diverse, precise and purposeful. All should not be subjected to fit in the needs of one or other group. Many European countries are adopting a very cautious approach towards gender treatment

for children¹². Many countries have banned the irreversible surgeries for the children or have adopted very restricted approach, even 18 states in USA have banned surgeries on children. We need to take a long-term view that protects family and society, along with material and spiritual well-being of human beings and their rights to live life happily and purposefully. In India and many other countries, intersex have their own systems, temples, festivals etc., which give them spiritual succour. These temples and festivals need to be protected as these give spiritual identity and path to this group of people¹⁴.



Recommendations

G20 governments must:

- ◆ **Make different policies** to take care of diverse needs of the persons combined in the term LGBTQ+.
- ◆ **Provide hostels/shelters for intersex children** who are generally discarded by families.
- ◆ **Ban treatments** such as puberty blockers, life-long hormones, and irreversible surgeries for gender transformation among transgender children as many countries have already done.
- ◆ **Protect the indigenous religious traditions** of the persons covered in the term LGBTQI+.
- ◆ **Preserve living spiritual traditions** for the intersex and gender non-conforming persons as done in India, Thailand and other countries are doing to provide them spiritual succour and space. 'International Study Center' should be established in India for the study, protection and promotion of these indigenous traditions existing amongst intersex and gender non-conforming persons all over the world.

4. Respecting the methods and approaches adopted by various countries, cultures, and communities to solve their problems and interpret terms like human rights, etc. in the light of their cultural ethos

Today, the discourse on human rights needs further refinement. In protecting the rights of the accused whether in cases of terrorism or in those involving violence against women, the right to dignity and privacy as well as the right to life of the victims often gets overlooked. Further, in-depth protection of rights of all is required.

The human rights discourse has evolved in the United Nations system over the past four decades. While recognising that the human rights machinery is mostly treaty-based, that is, anchored in international law, where the State that ratifies the treaty willingly assumes legally binding obligations under the treaty and submits periodic compliance reports to the respective treaty body, subjecting itself to scrutiny by the treaty body for monitoring of compliance. and while accepting that it must not give any member State a pass in the name of cultural ethos or freedom to “interpret” human rights,

it is perhaps time to launch a discourse that looks upon human being not only as an individual but in terms of his connections and responsibilities towards his family, society, nature, etc. Many traditional societies even today are not just contract-based but also relations-based. Thus, the diverse ways in which various issues related with human life are dealt with within various cultural contexts need to be respected.

The G20 communique of the year 2005, says,

We recognized there is no uniform development approach that fits all countries. Each country should be able to choose the development approaches and policies that best suit its specific characteristics, while benefiting from their accumulated experience in policy making over the last decades, including the importance of strong macroeconomic policies for sustained growth.

The time has come that, not only in economic development, but in all round development 'no one size fits all' is to be adopted. The diversity of ways of development also are to be recognized. Every culture must have the right to follow one's own civilizational values through vision of life, values of life and develop systems to implement the

same, not on the basis of uniformity or mechanical sameness but a living Oneness where the care of all is taken and the diversity of individuals as well as communities and the methods adopted by them to protect the freedom and happiness of all is respected.

Recommendations

G20 governments must:

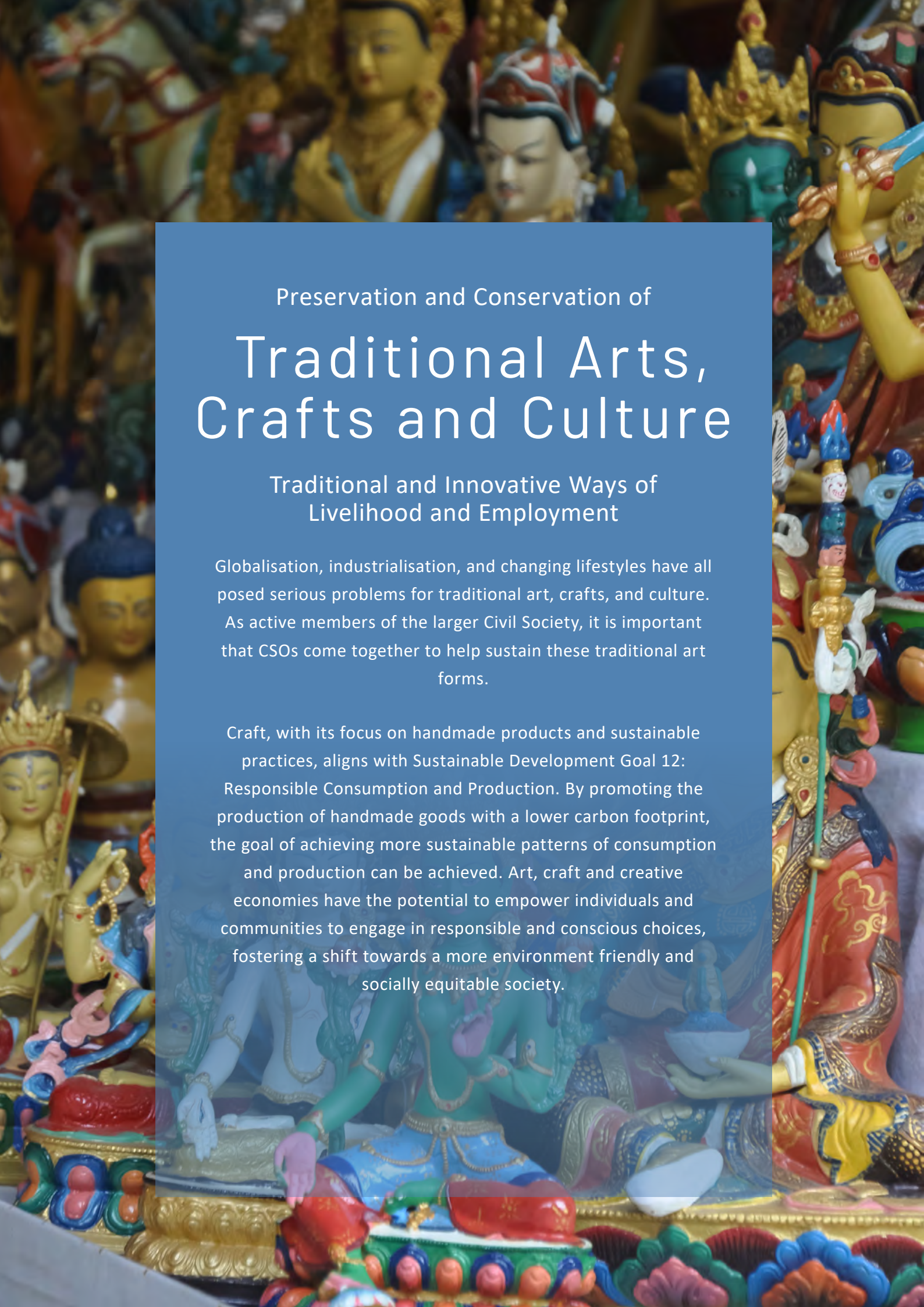
- ◆ **Declare** as was done in case of economic development in the communique of 2005 that there is no one model that fits all even in the development of human beings and society and culture.

Udaaharans or Best Practices

- 'Microsign', an enterprise at Bhavnagar, Gujarat is a successful example of how differently abled persons are sought after and constitute preferred staff. It's 60% workforce are differently-abled as preferred HR. Harvard business review mentions it in its publication March 16, 2016, based on the study of IIM Ahmedabad.
- A residential school at Rang a very remote part of East Kameng district, Arunachal Pradesh is a living example of imparting of modern education with cultural ethos. The students learn modern subjects based on a curriculum prescribed by the Central Board of Secondary Education. Subjects such as indigenous arts like dances, songs, etc., sports, crafts like weaving, basket making, and environment, chanting hymns-verses, singing devotional songs, folklores and tales comprise of cultural and traditional wisdom. It has caught the attention of many other tribes in that part as the right way to 'development with culture'; i.e. to develop in modern way as well as to retain the diverse cultural identity.

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The background of the entire page is a dense collection of colorful Tibetan Buddhist statues. These include various deities and figures, some seated and some standing, adorned with intricate jewelry and traditional clothing. The colors are vibrant, featuring gold, red, blue, green, and yellow. The statues are arranged in a way that creates a sense of depth and richness, typical of a Tibetan monastery or a collection of religious art.

Preservation and Conservation of Traditional Arts, Crafts and Culture

Traditional and Innovative Ways of Livelihood and Employment

Globalisation, industrialisation, and changing lifestyles have all posed serious problems for traditional art, crafts, and culture. As active members of the larger Civil Society, it is important that CSOs come together to help sustain these traditional art forms.

Craft, with its focus on handmade products and sustainable practices, aligns with Sustainable Development Goal 12: Responsible Consumption and Production. By promoting the production of handmade goods with a lower carbon footprint, the goal of achieving more sustainable patterns of consumption and production can be achieved. Art, craft and creative economies have the potential to empower individuals and communities to engage in responsible and conscious choices, fostering a shift towards a more environment friendly and socially equitable society.

Traditional craftsmanship is perhaps the most tangible manifestation of intangible cultural heritage. Traditional craftsmanship can be seen in many forms, including tools, clothing, jewellery, costumes and props for plays and festivals, storage containers, objects for transportation and shelter, decorative art, ritual objects, musical instruments, household utensils, and toys for both entertainment and education.

Handicrafts have existed in accordance with the prevailing environmental

conditions since man's earliest days. The first examples were necessities such as clothing or protection. Handicrafts were later improved and adapted in response to environmental factors, eventually becoming "traditional" and accepted as an art form reflecting a society's artistic sense, feelings, and cultural characteristics.

G20 member states should use measures to promote and maintain traditional art, crafts, and culture to solve these issues and further their preservation and conservation.

The policy brief aims to:

- ◆ Identify and preserve traditional art, crafts, and culture
- ◆ Promote traditional art, crafts, and culture as a means of livelihood and employment
- ◆ Promote innovative ways of livelihood and employment that preserve and promote traditional art, crafts, and culture
- ◆ Create a sustainable ecosystem for the preservation and promotion of traditional art, crafts, and culture
- ◆ Develop a cultural foundation and engage the people of all backgrounds to foster pride in their cultural heritage and engage cultural exchange
- ◆ Promote research and innovation: Invest in research, data mapping and development initiatives focused on traditional art, crafts, and culture.
- ◆ Foster intergenerational knowledge transfer: Implement programs and initiatives that facilitate the transfer of traditional art and craft skills from older generations to

- ◆ younger ones. This will help ensure the continuity and preservation of valuable techniques and cultural practices.
- ◆ Strengthen market linkages: Support artisans and craftspeople by establishing direct market connections, both domestic and international.



Preservation and Conservation of Traditional Arts, Crafts, and Culture:

1. Documentation & Digitization

The first step in preserving and conserving traditional arts, crafts, and cultures is to document them. G20 member states should undertake an extensive documentation exercise to identify the different traditional arts, crafts, and cultures prevalent in different regions of the country. This documentation should be carried out with the help of experts and scholars in the field. Once the documentation is

complete, the G-20 should undertake a digitization exercise to ensure that these traditions are accessible to people worldwide. This digitization exercise should include creating an online repository of information, including videos, images, and articles on these traditions.





2. Establishing Centres of Excellence

The G-20 should establish centres of excellence in traditional arts, crafts, and cultures in different parts of the country. These centres should act as hubs for the promotion and preservation of traditional arts, crafts, and cultures. They should provide

training and support to artisans and craftspeople and encourage them to pass on their skills to future generations. G20 should also provide grants and funding for research and development in traditional arts, crafts, and cultures.

3. Providing Training and Support

G20 should provide training and support to artisans and craftspeople to enhance their skills and knowledge. G20 states should also provide financial assistance and marketing support to help these artisans and craftspeople to promote their products and earn a decent livelihood.

4. Encouraging Entrepreneurship

G20 should encourage entrepreneurship among artisans and craftspeople by providing support, including but not limited to, access to finance, training, and mentoring, to artisans and craftspeople to start their enterprises.





5. Market Development

Developing markets for traditional arts and crafts are critical for their sustainability. This can be done through establishing markets, promoting them through e-commerce platforms, and encouraging local tourism. Apprenticeship programs should be developed that provide aspiring fashion designers and artisans with opportunities to learn from experienced craftspeople.

6. Collaborations

Collaborating with other organizations, groups, and communities can help to preserve traditional arts and crafts. This can involve partnerships with museums, galleries, and cultural institutions.

7. Promotion and Education

Promotion and education of traditional arts and crafts can be done through public events, exhibitions, and festivals. This will help to raise awareness and appreciation of traditional arts and crafts. There is also a need to foster collaborations between traditional artisans and design institutions, such as fashion schools and universities.

8. Inclusivity and Diversity

Preserving and promoting traditional arts and crafts should be inclusive and diverse. This can include supporting artisans and craftspeople from marginalized communities and promoting gender equality in the industry.

9. Promote Skill Development

G20 could promote the skill development of artisans and craftspeople by organizing workshops, training programs, and apprenticeships. This can help to preserve traditional techniques and ensure that they are passed down to future generations of craftspeople.

10. Encourage Innovation

G20 should encourage innovation in traditional arts and crafts by supporting the use of modern technologies and designs while preserving the traditional techniques. This can help to make traditional arts and crafts more accessible and appealing to younger generations.

11. Promote Market Access

G20 should promote market access for traditional artisans and craftspeople by creating online marketplaces, promoting tourism, and establishing markets for traditional products. This can help to increase the demand for traditional arts and crafts and provide more opportunities for artisans and craftspeople to sell their products.

12. Support Marginalized Communities

G20 should support marginalized communities by providing skill development opportunities and promoting the use of traditional arts and crafts in sustainable livelihoods. This can help to empower marginalized communities and ensure that their cultural traditions are preserved.

13. Promote Environmental Sustainability

G20 can promote environmental sustainability in traditional arts and crafts by supporting the use of eco-friendly materials, reducing waste, and promoting sustainable livelihoods for artisans and craftspeople. Advocate for the adoption of circular economy principles in the art and craft sectors. Encourage the recycling, repurposing, and upcycling of materials to minimize waste and reduce the environmental footprint of the industry. This can help to ensure that traditional arts and crafts are produced in an environmentally sustainable way.

Udaaharans

Traditional Turkish handicrafts

Create a rich mosaic by combining genuine values with the cultural heritage of the various civilizations that have passed through Anatolia over the millennia. Carpet-making, rug-making, sumac, cloth-weaving, writing, tile-making, ceramics and pottery, embroidery, leather manufacture, musical instrument-making, masonry, copper work, basket-making, saddle-making, felt-making, weaving, woodwork, cart-making, and so on are examples of traditional Turkish handicrafts. Wool, mohair, cotton, bristles, and silk are common weaving materials in traditional Turkish handicrafts.

Gzhel is a Russian ceramic style

It has been producing pottery since the 14th century and is known as one of Russia's oldest and largest producers. It is the true birthplace of Russian ceramics. It is shipped both domestically and internationally. Gzhel rose to prominence in the Eighteenth Century. It was well-known for its beautiful majolica-coloured clay with polychrome paintings on white glaze, but it wasn't until the Nineteenth Century that Gzhel's Golden Era began.



The key recommendations on traditional and innovative ways of livelihood and employment are:

- ◆ Recognize and preserve traditional occupations, skills, and knowledge systems by providing support for training, upskilling, and infrastructure development.
 - ◆ Encourage innovation and entrepreneurship that fosters an ecosystem towards innovation and entrepreneurial activities by providing access to resources, mentorship, and financial support.
 - ◆ Ensure that both traditional and innovative livelihood options are accessible and inclusive, particularly for marginalized communities, women, and youth.
 - ◆ Promote sustainable practices: Encourage environmentally sustainable livelihood options, promote conservation, and support the use of clean technologies.
- ◆ **Skill development and capacity building**
 - Establish skill development programs: Develop comprehensive skill development programs that address the needs of traditional and innovative livelihood sectors. Collaborate with industry experts, educational institutions, and local communities to design and implement these programs effectively.
 - Promote apprenticeships and internships: Facilitate apprenticeships and internships to provide hands-on training and experiential learning opportunities for individuals pursuing traditional and innovative livelihood options.

◆ **Access to finance and resources:**

1. Establish dedicated funds: Create dedicated funds to provide financial assistance, grants, and loans at affordable rates to individuals and communities engaged in traditional and innovative livelihood practices.
2. Support infrastructure development: Invest in the development of infrastructure, such as marketplaces, incubation centres, and technology hubs, to facilitate the growth of traditional and innovative enterprises.
3. Support Artisan Cooperatives: Establish and support cooperatives that bring together artisans and craftspeople to collectively produce and market their products. Provide them with training, access to resources, and marketing support to enhance their business skills and increase their market reach.

◆ **Knowledge preservation and promotion:**

1. Document traditional knowledge: Undertake comprehensive documentation of traditional livelihood practices, including techniques, tools, and cultural significance. Create digital repositories and databases to preserve and disseminate this knowledge.

2. Promote cultural tourism: Encourage cultural tourism initiatives that showcase traditional livelihood practices to domestic and international visitors, generating income for practitioners and creating awareness about India's rich cultural heritage.

◆ **Entrepreneurship and innovation support:**

1. Establish incubation centres: Set up incubation centres and innovation hubs to support aspiring entrepreneurs in traditional and innovative sectors. Provide mentorship, networking opportunities, and access to market linkages.
2. Provide technical assistance and advisory services: Offer technical assistance, business advisory services, and mentorship programs to individuals and enterprises engaged in traditional and innovative livelihood practices.

◆ **Policy and regulatory framework:**

1. Review and revise existing policies: Continuously review and update existing policies and regulations to align them with the needs of traditional and innovative livelihood sectors. Simplify procedures, reduce bureaucratic hurdles, and ensure consistency across different regions.

2. Incentivize sustainable practices: Introduce incentives and rewards for traditional and innovative livelihood practices that promote sustainability, environmental conservation, and the use of clean technologies.

3. Ethical Supply Chains: Encourage transparency and ethical practices in the supply chains of crafts and fashion products. Advocate for fair wages, safe working conditions, and sustainable sourcing of materials. Promote certifications and labeling systems that verify the ethical and sustainable practices of artisans and craftspeople.

◆ Implementation and Monitoring

a. *Implementation authorities:* Designate a dedicated authority, such as a Livelihood and Employment Promotion Agency, to oversee the implementation of this policy. This agency should work in coordination with relevant departments, industry associations, and community representatives.

b. *Monitoring and evaluation:* Establish a robust monitoring and evaluation framework to track the progress and impact of the policy. Regular assessments should be conducted to identify challenges, address gaps, and make necessary improvements.


c. *Stakeholder engagement:* Foster active engagement with stakeholders, including traditional practitioners, entrepreneurs, community organizations, NGOs, and academia.

◆ Promote Cultural Exchange:

G-20 Nations should promote cultural exchange programs that allow artisans and craftspeople to share their skills and techniques with other communities. This will help to preserve traditional arts and crafts and promote cultural diversity.

◆ Support in Research and Documentation:

G-20 Nations can support research and documentation of traditional arts and crafts. This can involve providing funding for research projects, creating databases of traditional crafts, and promoting access to these resources. This can include sharing best practices, conducting joint research projects, and organising international events and exhibitions.



Delivering Democracy

The Delivering Democracy Working Group (DDWG) seeks to ensure engagement from all the concerned stakeholders in generating a platform for discussions for strengthening democracy, and for members of civil society organizations across the world to voice people's aspirations before world leaders who are members of the G20 nations. The DDWG has anchored various knowledge assimilation events such as International Conference, International Webinar Series, Campus 20 Poster Competitions, etc. through both in-person and virtual mediums.

Structural features like multi-party elections, an independent judiciary, and free media - are important instruments of democracy. However, the basic strength of democracy is the spirit and ethos that lie within its citizens and societies. Democracy is not only of the people, by the people, for the people but also with the people, within the people.

For countries like India, democracy is a sacred and shared value. It has evolved over a long time, and taken various forms and systems. Through history, however, one thing is clear. Democracy has been the spirit that supports

equality and dignity; the idea that has welcomed debate and discourse; the culture that has given wings to thought and expression.

Different parts of the world have followed different paths of democratic development. There is much we can learn from each other. We all need to constantly improve our democratic practices and systems. And we all need to continuously enhance inclusion, transparency, human dignity, responsive grievance redressal and decentralization of power.

Strengthening and Deepening Democracy: Youth Media and Civil Society

Strengthening democracy is a responsibility, not only of the government but also of core societal stakeholders such as the youth, media and civil society organizations

(CSOs). What is needed is an enabling environment and strong support to be provided to enable these stakeholders to contribute effectively to the strengthening of democracy.



Recommendations

Youth

1. Technology should be leveraged to increase youth participation in democratic processes. For example, building online voting systems for young people to exercise their right to vote.
2. G20 nations should use participatory training and engagement tools to inculcate democratic values and competencies in young people. Exemplars include UNICEF India's YuWaah! which has initiated gamified tools combining knowledge development and on-ground action to nurture the capacities of young people to lead volunteerism.
3. Schools in G20 nations should include civic education in the younger generation. Legislation should require countries to develop basic content and benchmarks of achievement for civic education.
4. Local Governments should introduce mandatory youth outreach programs. Youth can be engaged to solve local issues (such as traffic congestion, design innovation, etc.). This engagement should also be credited academically as well.

Departments of Education should make funding available for civic education that focuses on democratic principles¹. There should be pedagogy on democracy, democratic institutions, and responsibility of citizenry which should be practical and provide experiential learning from class 6th onwards. In Sweden, the school curriculum includes lessons on the theory and practice of democracy. Representatives of political parties visit schools, helping students to learn about the political system. This model may be referred to.

5. Introducing student politics on university campuses is key to facilitating youth engagement in decision-making processes. However, the implementation of reforms for free and fair student elections and politics is a must for improving youth perception of campus politics.
6. Have fellowship programs for youth to engage them on issues of democratic values and democratic processes e.g. have youth fellows in local self-governing institutions
7. Youth Empowerment Ministry in Governments, present in different countries should keep Governance and Democracy as the major agenda items in the department's programs.

Civil Society Organizations

1. G20 States should focus on strengthening civil society; there should be institutional mechanisms set up for smooth coordination with and capacity building of CSOs, with dedicated funds for the same.
to contribute to policy-making and implementation; these mechanisms can enable civil society to help find pragmatic solutions on various issues of national importance. These practices should be encouraged in all G20 states.
2. In some countries, CSOs sit in the panel or in government committees

Media

1. G20 states must support independent and public interest journalism by designing incentives for philanthropic donations to the news sector and considering tax concessions to support public interest journalism².
2. Citizen journalism and participatory video-making, wherein people disseminate information using websites, blogs, and social media, should be encouraged and fostered.



Responsible Citizenry and Responsive Governance: Effective Voting and Beyond

1. Creating Electoral Literacy Clubs in educational institutions and planning activities like Each One Reach One (every youth to educate one voter) are recommended.
2. G20 State should create a Democracy Coalition including members of Civil Society to plan and implement democracy campaigns beyond the election period. Training programs should be conducted for communities and community-based organizations to enhance their understanding of democracy and their role as stakeholders in the decision-making process.
3. CSOs should assist to enhance the number of registered voters and to encourage registered voters to cast their ballots.
4. Performance indicators and measurement systems for legislators should be developed and implemented, for independent evaluation of performance. Such indicators may include attendance and frequency of speaking in parliament/legislature³, decorum and parliamentary speech and conduct, and contribution to the development of the electoral constituency.
5. More important documents or policies prepared by the government should be floated in the public domain by employing the aid of technology. Placing the draft bill in the public domain for a suitable period of time should be followed diligently and for a larger number of bills.
6. On the lines of the UN General Assembly, there should be Global Citizen's Assemblies for debating issues of global importance. Both in-person and virtual participation mechanisms for the same should be made available.



Decentralization and Grassroots Democracy

Challenges

Empowered Deliberative Democracy (EDD) involves public meetings or deliberative forums in local governance, whereby local residents gather, discuss and decide on governance issues affecting their lives.

EDD forums such as Village Assemblies in actual practice are constrained by certain challenges such as low attendance in meetings and inability to exercise any decisive influence on decision-making.

1. CSOs should conduct capacity building and sensitization of members of the community for more active and effective participation in deliberative forums such as Village Assemblies.

2. Innovations in grassroots democracy and people's participation such as habitation/micro level assemblies should be implemented for effective grassroots-level community participation even in remote areas.

3. Each Village Council/unit of local government can think of a community radio station that can be used to hear the problems of the public directly.

4. There is a need for suitable training of elected representatives of rural local self-governing institutions:

- Training should use suitable participatory pedagogies so that the lessons are found engaging by the participants. It should engage peer networks of elected representatives from vulnerable communities for mutual learning.
- Social audits carried out by villagers be supported and institutionalized, and made active in their functioning with the support of CSOs.



Digital Democracy

1. Digital literacy campaigns should be customized and implemented for different age groups, genders, social categories and education levels.
2. For citizens to better understand policies, and have informed opinions on them for better accountability, more infotainment content on policy matters should be developed and disseminated through social media.
3. Digital Dignity Volunteers at the grassroots level are required to upkeep sanity and sanctity on the social media platforms.
4. Digital technology should be well utilized to make governance more transparent, innovative and participatory (see Udaaharans section).

Inclusive Democracy

1. Evidence shows that gender quotas have helped enhance women's participation in political governance forums⁴. G20 countries that have not adopted such quotas as per the law should take steps to do so.
2. Governments should incentivize the participation of citizens from social and economic sections of the population via non-monetary means in the decision-making process.
3. There is a need for democratic empowerment of the most vulnerable sections of society, for example through voter education of specially-abled individuals, which also use role models from the community of PwDs.
4. Migrants should be empowered to participate in the democratic process. In Australia, the government has invested on educating the migrants in several languages through the Democracy Ambassadors Program. In this process, migrant women have become the most active participants in voting.



Democratising Development

To make development more responsive, participatory mechanisms should be adopted at the local or hyper-local levels for enabling local communities to participate actively in decision making, resource allocation, implementation and monitoring of services in various

domains such as health, education, etc. This section provides several best practices and Udaaharans that shed light on such mechanisms adopted in India, Brazil, Thailand, and other countries.

Udaaharans

Digital Platform for Community Participation

Department of Rural Development and Panchayat Raj, Govt of Karnataka, India is contemplating live streaming Gram Sabha (Village Assembly) on social media platforms. This would enable the community members out of the village to join these assemblies from wherever they are and have their say as well.

Community Monitoring for Strengthening Responsible Participation Leveraging ICT – Experience of Arogya Shreni in Karnataka

GRAAM, India has pioneered a technology-based citizen participation model, bringing community ranking cards for strengthening community participation and accountability of primary health care services in the states of Karnataka ('ArogyaShreni') Arogyashreni - an action research project implemented by GRAAM across Mysore District of Karnataka covering 112 rural Primary Health Centres (PHC)s, involved building the capacity of communities for monitoring the PHCs with the aid of technology. The community representatives responded

to a questionnaire about the availability and quality of services of their PHCs using Interactive Voice Response technology (IVRS) through their mobile phones. The responses were analyzed and used to rank PHCs in Mysore district. The innovation in the whole process of community participation described above lies in how the project leverages simple communication technology for unbiased, free and efficient monitoring and empowering communities.



International Best Practice

1. The Ostbelgien Model of Belgium providing a permanent Citizen's Council

In 2019, a permanent Citizens' Council was established in Ostbelgien (Eastern Belgium).

24 randomly selected citizens form the Citizens' Council⁵.

Every six months, one-third of the cohort of members of the council is rotated out, to be replaced with randomly selected citizens.

The Citizen's Panel can also constitute ad-hoc Citizens' Panels on the most pressing policy issues of their choice.

The obligation of the authorities to consider the recommendations of the Citizen's Panel is a noteworthy feature of the system. The Ostbelgien model is thus an example where citizens are given a genuine voice in setting the policy agenda and empowered to actively explore issues of their choice.



2. Participatory Budgeting for the participation of and enhancing allocation of resources towards the poor in Porto Alegre Brazil⁶

Participatory Budgeting is a participatory tool to allow local residents to shape decision-making and allocation of resources in their areas. Participatory Budgeting (PB) in the city of Porto Alegre, Brazil, is widely considered to be the most noteworthy use of PB in the world.

PB in Porto Alegre involves three streams of meetings: neighborhood assemblies, thematic assemblies, and meetings of delegates for citywide coordinating sessions.

Through the PB process, each of the 16 districts in the city gives rankings of priorities at the end of the deliberations. They also elect delegates who proceed to the Council of the Participatory Budget (COP) with the districts' suggestions. In the PB process, women, ethnic minorities, low-income, and low-education participants were overrepresented, and as a result, funding shifted to the poorest parts of the city.





3. Institutionalized Engagement of CSOs with Health Systems: National Health Assembly of Thailand

In Thailand, the National Health Assembly has helped build civil society's capacity to engage with the policymaking process⁷.

The National Health Assembly in Thailand is based on the concept of the 'triangle that moves the mountain'. The 3 points of the triangle, all of whom have to be consulted in the policy process, are the 'government sector; civil society, communities, and the population ('people's sector'); and the academia, think tanks, and research

institutions ('knowledge sector'). (WHO, 2021).

The National Health Commission Office associated with the NHA invests efforts in building the capacity of the 'people's sector' so that they are able to better and more effectively engage in the NHA and other participatory spaces. The NHA has obtained legal status and its sustainability as a participatory structure is a lesson for other health systems⁸.

4. People's Committee to Communitise Development

School Development and Monitoring Committees (SDMCs) in the public schools of Karnataka, India are a useful platform for community and parental participation not only in school management but also in school development and monitoring. However, in practice, the functioning of these

committees often lack inclusion and participation and is dominated by head teachers. In this context, GRAAM, India under its **Sugamya Shiksha** program, has taken up the sensitization and capacity building of stakeholders for more active, inclusive, and participatory SDMCs.

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Special Mention

The world views of civil society organisations of various countries evolve along with the ethos of their respective countries. Naturally, they reflect the civilisational values and principles of their respective countries more prominently. It may be noted, in this backdrop, that the following three Policy Briefs prepared by the respective Working Groups on Sewa, Lifestyle for Environment or LiFE, and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam are reflective of the world view as well as the ethos essentially that of the Civil Society Organisations from India, the host country. Notwithstanding reservations of CSOs of some other countries, briefs on these themes have been included in this policy pack with a view to generating a larger conversation in the larger interest of the global community.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam

(One Earth One Family One Future)

**We envision a future where people from diverse backgrounds
co-exist with mutual respect and understanding.**

अयं बन्धुरयं नेतिगणना लघुचेतसाम् ।
उदारचरितानाम् तु वसुधैव कुटुम्बकम् ॥

(This one is my relative and that one is not – this is the calculation of small-minded people. But for noble-minded people, the entire cosmos and all beings in the planet Earth are but one family – Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam.)

Mankind has exploited Mother Earth and its beings to a point where extinction seems to be an inevitable outcome, if corrective measures are not undertaken immediately.

The spirit of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam derived from the Maha Upanishads of India, envisages a world where the virtues of empathy, mutual respect and harmonious coexistence would guide mankind in protecting itself from extinction by restoring the beatitude of Mother Earth.

It would be pertinent to note that the common man would require some orientation to attain the desired level of calmness that is essential for a human being to appreciate the subtlety contained in the Upanishadic philosophy. The intuitive Rishis, the thinkers of the oriental world, realised

this truth early on and successfully institutionalised its practice by connecting all day-to-day actions of the common folk with the divine – thereby ensuring that Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam becomes a way of life!

The recommendations included in the Policy Brief have been framed with the same objective of creating a platform for people to practise this concept seamlessly as part of their day-to-day lives. We wish to submit that if effective steps are taken to implement them over a short term, these measures would be pivotal to the achievement of the transformative vision in about 25 years.

Vision

We envision a future where people from diverse backgrounds will co-exist with mutual respect and understanding. The declaration Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam finds its origin in the 'Maha Upanishad', which the 'Rishis' (visionaries), of the past in India, realised and shared for the welfare of mankind. This essentially means that the whole of creation is one family, and it calls upon mankind to set aside all differences and live in harmony with all other forms of creation.

It is a statement of fact and not a mere ancient saying of ornamental

importance. While diverse knowledge systems speak of the essential oneness of all entities, human beings, and nations are divided along multiple identities. The time has come for us to hand over an undivided, integrated, and harmonious world to our children.

Most ancient civilizations focused on preserving mother earth for thousands of years. However, gripped by selfishness and greed, mankind has become negligent and irresponsible to the point where living on the planet

has become difficult. This situation must change. To protect mankind from extinction, it is time for us to commence a measured U-turn.

The recommendations included in this Policy Brief have been framed with the objective of enabling the common people to internalise and practise the concept of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam seamlessly as part of their day-to-day lives, and we believe that this transformative vision can be achieved in about 25 years. However, the success of this project will be dependent on the effectiveness of its implementation over the next two to three years.

Together, we have the power to shape a narrative that fosters inclusivity, compassion, and shared responsibility for the betterment of our global community. To promote discussions and deliberations around this concept, the Working Group conducted 75 seminars and conferences across countries, featuring international experts from various fields, on nine major sub-themes. The speakers who dwelt on these sub-themes included public figures, bureaucrats, educators, scientists, environmentalists, sportspersons, artists, and sages.

Recommendations

As explained, humankind's most ancient philosophical values advocate the spirit of co-existence with love, mutual respect and acceptance. Thanks to the vision of its Rishis, India has been successfully able to put this into practice in all aspects of their lives. India's initiatives towards extending support in the form of vaccines to multiple countries during Covid as well as during natural calamities are

examples of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam in practice. People across the world can build the spirit of co-existence in their lives but for that to happen, sustained effort will have to be made in the form of education, discussion and deliberation over the coming years. The following five key recommendations are suggested apart from subtheme-based recommendations, for consideration and implementation by the G20:



1. Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam should be a permanent Working Group in future G20 summits, involving discussions and deliberations as part of its agenda.
2. Each G20 nation should form a 10-member Core Committee on Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (CCVK). The Committee should comprise influential members from the respective countries for immediate engagement with the citizens on the theme of co-existence and civilizational appreciation. These discussions can be undertaken on the nine sub-themes and beyond. After that, it can be implemented in those countries in a phased manner in alignment with their civilization values.
3. Every G20 nation should select five ambassadors for each sub-theme, who can be exposed to online orientation programs and one physical orientation before the 2024 Summit in Brazil.
4. The CCVK of the G20 nations should have bi-monthly online meetings and one physical meeting in Brazil at least two months before the G20 2024 Summit for further action.
5. India has, over many centuries, successfully practiced connectivity with the divine in all aspects of social life, and this worked very well for the nation, despite diverse lifestyles.

For every Indian, connectivity with God is a way of life – every day begins with early morning prayers, and every action/ function performed during the day – from something as simple as buying new clothes, vehicles, land, or even a pen, is treated as

an offering unto the Almighty.

Other G20 nations can consider connecting various aspects of their social life with the divine or any other higher ideology that is culturally acceptable to their society.

Our recommendations under sub-themes:

1. Dharma (Religion/Spirituality)

- Governments, educational institutions, and CSOs should actively encourage public dialogues and discussions on the importance of co-existence with nature.
- The G20 nations should consider taking initiatives enabling their citizens to shift their focus toward duties rather than aggressively pursuing their rights.
- Representatives of different religious institutions should assemble on a common platform to discuss matters impacting the lives of ordinary people and suggest constructive solutions to promote harmony.
- The G20 countries should consider adopting appropriate Resolutions that would facilitate changes to their constitutions to foster tolerance for all religions.





2. Ecology and Earth Revering Traditions

- Governments should proactively adopt responsible measures to aid people to live together, such as establishing a minimum family size for property acquisition and providing assistance programs for joint families.
- The G20 nations should consider amending their respective constitutions for providing constitutional protection to the animal and plant kingdoms, to ensure lawful and legitimate usage by the human population.
- Members of society should be encouraged to go back to the era of 'circular usage'-reduce, reuse, and recycle, rather than 'use and throw.'
- The Government, jointly with CSOs, should pro-actively introduce programmes to educate the urban population about the sustainable practices adopted by the indigenous communities, through experiential learning.

3. Art, Culture, and Literature

- Different art forms, focusing on exchanging knowledge and best practices, should be included in the education curriculum for students at different stages.
- A cultural festival on the civilizational celebrations of G20 countries should be included as part of the ongoing G20 activities as an annual feature.
- The G20 nations should also actively focus on art exchange programs involving established practitioners of various art forms across all the countries.

4. Education

- The G20 countries should consider including a common subject on co-existence as part of the school curriculum. Efforts should be made for the leaders from these countries to interact with the students on this topic at least once a year.
- School curriculum should include specific portions to acquaint children on the importance of need-based living, varied art forms and cultural practices.
- Schools can run special recognition programs to incentivise children who exhibit prudence in their consumption patterns, exhibit tolerance towards others from diverse backgrounds and show sensitivity towards the animal and plant kingdoms.
- Children should be encouraged to learn multiple global languages that will ensure a seamless connection with the worldwide community.
- Educational institutions should actively focus on the attitudinal development of the learners by including spiritual lessons as part of education.



5. Sports

- The G20 countries should embrace opportunities to appreciate talent by forming unified teams comprising players from multiple nations in sporting events. This G20 league approach will promote admiration for skill rather than fostering mere rivalry.
- Initiatives to ensure easy mobility of sportspersons across geographies, like a more straightforward visa process, should be guaranteed.
- The G20 countries should encourage cross-country training programs for athletes to train with each other, enabling them to learn about people and cultures.

6. Business and Economy

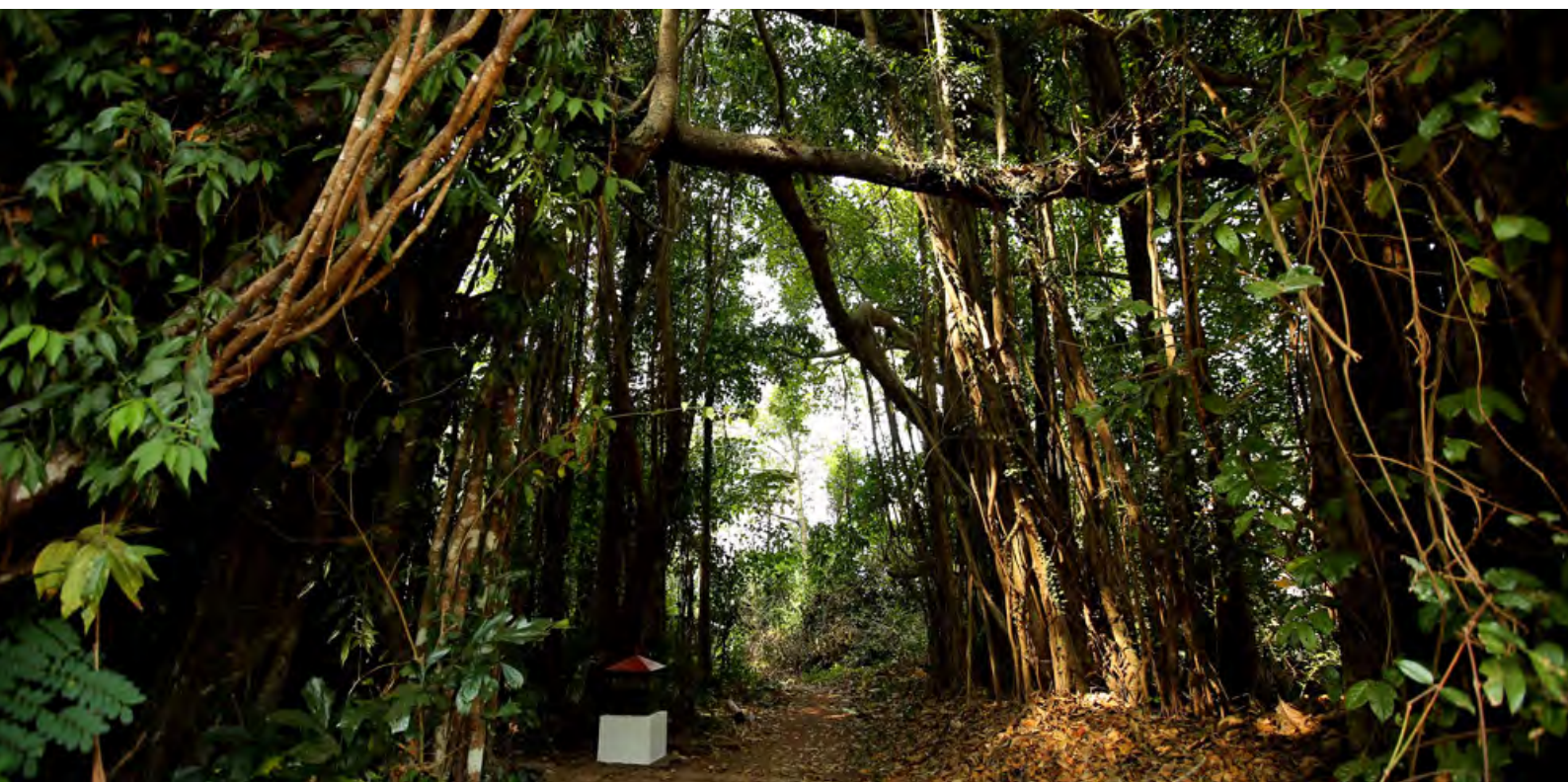
- There should be a more significant representation and broader consultation from across countries on ESG-related matters. The G20 nations should broaden the platform to ensure effective compliance and prevent the weaponization of any kind.
- The G20 nations should consider constituting a disaster relief fund to support the sustainability of the pandemic affected smaller and poorer nations to ensure an uninterrupted supply of food and resources to the deserving sections of the world population.



Udaaharans

Conserving Natural Resource

- Faith and conservation go hand-in-hand. For thousands of years, temple ponds have played an essential part in water conservation efforts in India. Not only did they serve as a source of water supply, but they also served to recharge groundwater. The spiritual connectedness of Bharatiyas with nature is evident in that every temple is associated with a tank, tree, and local history. The temple tree is considered a single genetic resource for conserving species diversity. Further extending this concept, entire groves of trees (like kavus in Kerala and kaadus in Tamil Nadu) have been declared as places of worship, thereby conserving nature.
- Indigenous communities like the Bishnois, Bhils, and Swadhyayas have shown how parched lands can be converted into lush fields. The Saurashtra region of Gujarat constantly suffers droughts where the deepest wells run dry. The Swadhyayas harvested rainwater into inter-connected wells that were dug at strategic spots. They mobilized the villagers to build Nirmal Nirs (collection wells) that recharged the wells and raised the water table.



A Way of Life that has enabled Conservation

- 18% of the world population lives in India, but India is responsible for just 3% of total greenhouse gas emissions.
- Despite having only one-fifth of the world's agricultural land, India can manage its food needs and supply food to the world, primarily because of traditional and responsible food habits. The per capita meat consumption of Indians is only about 3.1 kg per head compared to 84 kg per head in the European Union. Cereals form the bulk of the Indian plate. Combined with faith-based practices that restrict eating meat on certain days and seasons, sustainability has been a lived tradition.
- Living practices in India have directly contributed to economic and infrastructure requirements. The concept of living together with family and extended family has led to the average number of occupants in a house being 4.9 per home. If this number were to drop to 3.9 per home, India would need 51 million more homes. A living practice has thus unburdened the government and the world.



Providing Hope During a Crisis

- Amidst the pandemic's peak in January 2021, when developed nations stockpiled vaccines, India emerged as a beacon of generosity. The country selflessly gifted its indigenous Covid-19 vaccines, medical supplies, and medications to over 100 nations worldwide.
- Operation Dost - During the disastrous earthquake at Turkiye and Syria in February 2023, India was one of the first nations to extend support towards search and rescue operations, in addition to a Field Hospital set up by the Indian Army.
- The Government proactively facilitated food security for vulnerable sections of society through the Public Distribution System (PDS). From April 2020 to December 2022, the government provided 5 kg (11 lb.) of subsidized food grains monthly, costing approximately \$47 billion, to underprivileged families as part of the program. Additionally, under the National Food Security Act, nearly 75% of the rural and 50% of the urban population received highly subsidized food grains, with the government spending two trillion rupees (\$24.16 billion).



Resource Conservation

- To sensitize and create awareness among people to conserve resources and adopt a need-based way of life, an eminent 3 times Grammy award winner has popularized ReWear4Earth. Repeating your clothes to make a fashion statement is sustainable fashion – Fashion can be trendy twice.

Admiration through Sport

- The Sporting Leagues in cricket, soccer, badminton, and hockey have allowed sportspersons to develop a sense of togetherness and admiration for each other's skill sets and talent.



Sewa

(Sense of Service, Philanthropy and Volunteerism)

Civil society globally thrives on values of empathy, selflessness, and mission-orientation. It is designed for sustainability, executed by volunteers, and driven by communities. This scalable and sustainable model embraces the idea of selfless service, known as “Sewa” in multiple cultures across the world. Our working group aims to conceptualize a Sewa-model of development, uniting individuals on Earth as one family with the tools of volunteerism and philanthropy.

Global Relevance of the Working Group

1. **Re-imagining Development:** The Sewa working group advocates a regenerative development paradigm that goes beyond the limits of sustainable development. It emphasizes community-driven approaches, resource preservation, and optimum utilization based on the values of selfless service for the ecosystem by keeping a spiritual perspective of development.
2. **Nurturing Civic Engagement:** The working group fosters empathy, selflessness, and mission-orientation within civil society organizations. It cultivates a culture of service and philanthropy, instilling a sense of responsibility towards communities and the planet.
3. **Integrating Traditional Wisdom:** Recognizing the significance of traditional wisdom and cultural values, the working group incorporates local development needs, goals, and practices. Rooted in the inherent concept of selfless service, it harnesses diverse cultural perspectives for a more inclusive and holistic approach to societal progress.
4. **Strengthening Civil Society's Role:** The working group expands the role of civil society organizations beyond implementation. It promotes community-owned and driven development through philanthropy and volunteerism. By engaging with governments, international organizations, and stakeholders, it shapes development agendas, delivers quality services, and drives transformative change at all levels.
5. **In summary,** the Sewa Working Group envisions a development paradigm centred on selfless service, empathy, and sustainability. By embracing community-led approaches, integrating traditional wisdom, and strengthening civil society's role, we can create a more inclusive and regenerative world. The working group provides a platform for CSOs to collaborate, advocate for change, and contribute to the development agenda, ultimately fostering a sense of service and selfless love for one another within societies across the globe.

Policy Recommendations

Re-imagining & Redefining Development

1. **Shifting from GDP to an Ecosystem-Centric Index:**

Recognize the limitations of Gross Domestic Product (GDP) as a sole measure of development and prioritize the development of an ecosystem-centric index. This index should consider the ecological balance, sustainable resource utilization, and preservation of biodiversity. It should measure the well-being of both human societies and the natural environment, fostering a holistic approach to development.

2. **Strengthening Bottom-Up Development:**

Encourage governments to adopt policy frameworks that prioritize community engagement and participation in decision-making processes. This can be achieved through regular consultations, participatory rural/urban appraisals, and participatory budgeting exercises. Establish

mechanisms for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to actively engage in policy formulation, implementation, and monitoring at the local level. This can include the creation of advisory committees or the inclusion of CSO representatives in relevant government bodies.

3. **Promoting Cultural Sensitivity and Localization:**

Encourage governments to design and implement social schemes that take into account the unique cultural practices and traditions of local communities. This can help ensure that policies are more effective and resonate with the target population. Support research and documentation of local practices and traditional knowledge that contribute to community development. This can be done through partnerships between government institutions, academic institutions, and CSOs.

Role of Civil Society in Development

1. **Strengthening Civil Society's Role in Policy Formulation:**

Expand the role of civil society beyond ground-level implementation to meaningful participation in policy tables. Ensure their representation and active engagement in decision-making processes at local, national, and international levels. Foster inclusive and participatory governance models that value the input and expertise of civil society organizations in shaping development policies.

2. **Promote multistakeholder partnerships for social development:** Governments should facilitate and promote multistakeholder partnerships for social development projects involving pooling of resources from government agencies and corporate social responsibility initiatives, policy design and contextualization by civil society organizations, academic best practices, and

active participation from the corporate sector. Such collaborations can leverage the strengths of each stakeholder and result in more effective and sustainable social development outcomes.

3. **Cultivating a Sense of Responsibility and Reducing Dependency:** Integrate civic education and awareness programs into school curricula to promote a sense of responsibility, active citizenship, and community engagement from an early age with a sense of service towards the society. Encourage programs and initiatives that empower individuals and communities to address local challenges, such as community gardens, cooperative enterprises, and self-help groups. Governments can provide support through capacity building, technical assistance, and access to markets.



Strengthening Civil Society Organizations

1. **Real-Time Information Sharing and Collaboration:**

Create a digitized dashboard that provides real-time public access to comprehensive information on CSOs' performance and integrates activities from the government and civil society. Establish district-level administration platforms for streamlined coordination of public good initiatives.

2. **Transparent Funding and Performance Assessment:**

Develop indicators for each Sustainable Development Goal (SDG) to measure CSOs' performance and promote transparency in funding allocation. Collaborate with CSOs and subject matter experts to

create a rating system for social development projects based on community involvement, women's participation, volunteerism, civic engagement, environmental sustainability, and outcome/impact goals.

3. **Streamlined Documentation and Reporting:**

Minimize documentation requirements for fund allocation to CSOs and simplify reporting formats for Corporate Social Responsibility (CSR) initiatives. Consolidate and standardize reporting formats to reduce administrative burden. Allocate funding specifically for organizational development and capacity building.

4. Recognition for Seasonal Volunteer Groups:

Establish a system to recognize and provide temporary registration to volunteer groups that work during specific periods, such as cultural celebrations or important national days. These groups should be eligible for tax benefits for a shorter period with fewer regulations, recognizing their significant contribution to nation-building and encouraging sustained participation in community service initiatives.

5. Global Training and Certification System:

Create a global training body or certification system for individuals

in the social sector, providing standardized skills and qualifications recognized internationally.

This system enhances mobility, encourages cross-border collaborations, and improves employment prospects in the social sector.

6. Clear Classification System:

Implement a clear classification system to differentiate between development organizations, CSOs, and NGOs. This classification system enables accurate identification and understanding of active organizations, facilitating targeted policies and support mechanisms



Sewa in Education System

1. Education Institutes as Catalysts for Local Development with Sewa:

Reimagine educational institutions as centres for Sewa, creating responsible global citizens. The curriculum and extra-curricular activities should instill a sense of responsibility and Sewa Bhaav (selfless service) in students. Engage with community organizations to address local challenges, fostering ownership and social responsibility.

2. Formal and Informal Sewa in Daily Life:

Encourage organized Sewa through programs like the National Service Scheme (NSS) and volunteering initiatives. Promote informal acts of Sewa in daily life, such as kindness towards animals, serving elders, and assisting those in need. Recognize and reward volunteer services, highlighting the importance of community-building efforts.

3. Teacher Training for Value-Based Learning:

Provide comprehensive training for teachers to deliver value-based education, emphasizing empathy, compassion, and Sewa principles. Incorporate service-

learning projects and activities into lesson plans. Incentivize teacher trainees to engage in Sewa activities during their induction period, fostering practical experience and understanding.

4. Parental Guidance for Inculcating Sewa:

Guide parents to instill Sewa values through their behavior and storytelling. Encourage involvement in family and community service activities, fostering a culture of Sewa at home.

5. Integrating Sewa as a Mindset Shifter:

Shift the education focus to emotional growth and Sewa, moving beyond material achievements. Prioritize values, ethics, and responsibility through curriculum revisions.

a. Fostering a Shift from Ego-centric to Eco-centric Thinking:

Promote Sewa as a transformative tool for shifting mindsets towards caring for the environment and society. Emphasize interconnectedness, gratitude, and sustainable living.

b. Sewa as Interdisciplinary Thinking Rooted in Empathy:

Integrate Sewa across subjects, demonstrating its relevance to various disciplines. Foster holistic understanding of social issues and problem-solving through compassion.

- 6. Promoting Hands-on Learning for Sewa:** Incorporate field visits and purposeful learning experiences that cultivate abundance, divinity, and resilience. Address mental health and build a compassionate society.

a. Peer Teaching and Education

Imparting: Encourage peer teaching initiatives, where college students impart education to underserved children. Promote mutual learning, empathy, and responsibility.

b. Neighbourhood Sewa to Encourage Small Sewa Initiatives:

Promote small-scale Sewa initiatives within schools, such as mentoring and local service projects. Develop responsibility, leadership skills, and awareness of individual impact.

c. Activity-Based Learning:

Promote Sewa through age-appropriate activities, stories, and discussions that foster empathy and compassion.



Globalization of Selfless Service, i.e., Sewa

- 1. International Year of Sewa:** Declare a specific year as the “International Year of Sewa” to promote and recognize the importance of Sewa activities globally. This year-long campaign will serve as a

platform to raise awareness, foster collaboration, and inspire individuals and organizations to engage in meaningful service-oriented initiatives.

2. International Day of Sewa:

Designate a specific date as the “International Day of Sewa” to commemorate and celebrate the spirit of selfless service globally. This annual observance will provide an opportunity to showcase diverse Sewa activities, recognize outstanding contributors, and inspire individuals to engage in acts of service in their respective communities.

3. International Sewa Awards:

Institute international Sewa awards to recognize individuals, organizations, and initiatives that demonstrate exceptional commitment and impact in the field of Sewa. These awards will not only celebrate achievements but also inspire others to follow suit and make a difference through their own service endeavors.

Promoting Volunteerism

1. Individual Social Responsibility

(ISR): Introduce the concept of Individual Social Responsibility (ISR) where every citizen is encouraged to actively engage in volunteer activities. Incentives and recognition should be provided to individuals who participate in volunteering efforts. Pilot programs can be implemented to assess the effectiveness of ISR initiatives.

2. Integrating Volunteerism into Corporate Social Responsibility

(CSR): Encourage companies to incorporate volunteerism as a core element of their CSR activities.

Emphasize that volunteering should go beyond office-based initiatives and encourage employees to actively participate in community-based projects and activities.

3. Leveraging Volunteerism for Social Development Programs:

Governments should recognize the power of volunteerism in driving social development programs. Establish platforms, such as National Youth Corps (NYC) or Nehru Yuva Kendra (NYK), to mobilize and engage volunteers in activities aimed at addressing social challenges. Provide necessary

support and resources to facilitate the implementation of these programs.

- 4. Legal Frameworks for Volunteerism for Working Professionals:** Develop and enhance legal frameworks that support and facilitate volunteering activities. This includes providing incentives, protections, and recognition for volunteers, as well as creating a conducive environment for organisations to engage in volunteer work. It can also be extended to bring provisions for volunteer leave, recognition of volunteer work in employment records and legal protections for volunteers.

- 5. Behavioural Change Research on Volunteerism:** Collect comprehensive data on volunteering to identify levers of change and understand the impact of volunteer efforts. The information can help shape policies and strategies that promote and expand volunteering initiatives. This can be achieved through surveys, research studies, and collaboration with relevant organisations.



Deepening Philanthropy

1. **Prioritize and incentivize CSR spending in backward areas:**

Governments should encourage companies to prioritize and allocate a significant portion of their corporate social responsibility (CSR) funds to backward areas, rather than focusing solely on resource-rich areas. This will help address regional disparities and promote balanced development.

2. **Support tech-enabled giving platforms:**

Governments should support the expansion of the donor pool by encouraging the use of technology-enabled giving platforms such as crowdfunding platforms and social stock exchanges. These platforms can facilitate easier and more transparent access to philanthropic funding, thereby encouraging increased participation from a wider range of donors.

3. **Foster a regulatory framework that promotes human and social capital development:**

The regulatory framework should encourage philanthropy and giving that not only focuses on investing in capital infrastructure but also prioritizes the

creation of human and social capital. This can be achieved by supporting initiatives that enhance education, healthcare, skills development, and social empowerment.

4. **Explore philanthropic social investments:**

Governments should explore and promote philanthropic social investments, such as zero coupons and zero principle instruments, which bridge the gap between traditional donations and investments in the stock exchange. These innovative financial instruments can attract more private capital for social development projects while still generating positive social impact.

5. **Promote the community**

philanthropy model: Promote and scale up the community philanthropy model, which emphasizes mutual support and collaboration within communities. Governments should encourage the establishment and growth of community foundations that can mobilize local resources and address community-specific challenges. This model encourages self-reliance and



sustainable approaches to social development.

6. **Promoting Self-Sustainability in Civil Society Organizations:** Governments should promote self-sufficiency in finances for NGOs,

with enabling and encouraging laws to promote generating self-sufficing income through sustainable means. Encouraging self-reliance among NGOs will contribute to the long-term sustainability of their work.

Udaaharans

- ◆ **Shivganga, Madhya Pradesh, India:** Shivganga is a movement based out of the Bhil Tribals of Jhabua, Madhya Pradesh to restore the ecosystem to promote sustainable living through holistic village development. With 12,000+ youth as community volunteers

constructing 160,000 contour trenches conserving 8700 million litres of water, planting 500,000+ trees, Shivganga represents the values of volunteerism, community philanthropy, sense of service and cultural sensitivity.

◆ **Sewa International Inc, Houston, United States of America:**

Sewa USA is a Hindu-faith-based humanitarian organization specializing in disaster response, based out of the United States of America, with service projects in 12+ countries. As a major civil society organization, Sewa USA has 150,000 registered volunteers, and donors who wish to experience oneness through selfless service or sewa. With a tech-enabled platform for fundraising and multi-stakeholder partnerships for social development projects, Sewa USA represents the values of sewa and selfless service.

◆ **Fyunli Kauthig, Uttarakhand, India:** Fyunli Kauthig is a celebration of womanhood in the state of Uttarakhand in India. With 5000+ women participants across 400+ villages in the Himalayas, this festival celebrates the sense of service women exhibit for their environment, land and other natural resources. Recognized even in the textbooks in the United Kingdom, this festival represents the values of community participation, eco-centric development, and Bottom-up Development.

◆ **Baripada, Maharashtra, India:** As a winner of the India Biodiversity Awards by UNDP, Baripada exemplifies the community-ownership model for environment sustainability. The villagers, through community participation, have planted 1100+ acres of forest improving the groundwater levels, precipitation rate, and natural resource availability in the village. Baripada exemplifies Individual Social Responsibility (ISR), Bottom-up Development and Community Philanthropy.

◆ **Youth For Seva, Karnataka, India:** As a pre-eminent volunteer engagement platform, Youth For Seva has engaged 1,10,000+ volunteers across 250+ Civil Society Organizations across 15+ states of India. With its unique, selfless service-based volunteer engagement model, Youth for Seva exemplifies corporate volunteerism, hyper-local problem-solving and interdisciplinary thinking.

◆ **Food for Life, ISKON, Global:** ISKCON, or the International Society for Krishna Consciousness, is a global spiritual organization that promotes the practice of Bhakti

Yoga. ISKCON runs its Food for Life program to provide nutritious vegetarian meals to millions of people around the world who are suffering from poverty, hunger, or disaster. With over two billion meals

in over 60 countries in the last 50 years, it is one of the largest food relief organizations in the world. ISKCON exemplifies multi-stakeholder partnerships, prioritized CSR, and Selfless Service

Conclusion

In conclusion, the policy recommendations put forth by the Sewa - Sense of Service, Philanthropy, and Volunteerism working group for the C20 engagement group aim to foster a development paradigm centered on selfless service, empathy, and sustainability.

By prioritizing an ecosystem-centric index, strengthening bottom-up development, promoting cultural sensitivity, and integrating traditional wisdom, the group envisions a more inclusive and regenerative world.

Furthermore, by expanding the role of civil society in policy formulation, promoting multistakeholder partnerships, and cultivating a sense of responsibility and reducing dependency, the working group seeks to strengthen civil society's contribution to development.

The recommendations also emphasize the importance of integrating Sewa principles into the education system, fostering a global movement of selfless service, promoting volunteerism, deepening philanthropy, and promoting self-sustainability in civil society organizations.

These recommendations are supported by examples of successful initiatives such as Shrivangana, Sewa USA, Fyuni Kauthig, Baripada, and Youth For Seva, which demonstrate the values and principles advocated by the working group.

Ultimately, the working group provides a platform for civil society organizations to collaborate, advocate for change, and contribute to the development agenda, with the goal of fostering a sense of service and selfless love for one another within societies across the globe.

A background image showing a group of young adults, mostly of Asian descent, participating in a tree-planting activity in a lush green park. In the foreground, a man with a beard and a woman are focused on planting a sapling. The man is wearing a white t-shirt with 'UNTEER' printed on it and orange sneakers. The woman is wearing a white t-shirt with 'VOLU' printed on it and blue jeans. They are both smiling and looking down at the ground where they are working. A pile of brown soil is in the foreground. In the background, other volunteers are visible, and the scene is filled with vibrant green foliage and trees under bright, natural light.

LiFE

(Lifestyle for Environment)

There exist numerous international multilateral framework conventions directed at reducing human impacts on the environment. These framework conventions provide scientific, economic, and political measures for environmental governance. However, the effectiveness of these treaties is limited despite the enormous resources spent and efforts put in by the global community in creating and implementing these conventions¹.

Increase in the Greenhouse Gas (GHG) emissions, rising global temperature and sea level, pollution of air, water and soil, the unprecedented rate of biodiversity extinction and desertification and many more are the symptoms of the global environmental problem. Most of the international framework conventions for the environment are aimed at reducing these symptoms. Unless there are concrete global actions towards the

root causes, addressing symptoms will have limited results.

Voluntary contribution by individual citizens and collectives of individuals in the form of change in lifestyle-extractive to sustainable consumption-is important in addressing the environmental problems.

Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)

LiFE is rooted in culture, traditions, customary practices, and (environmentally) conscious contemporary practices.

India has always had a legacy of environment consciousness. The Indian sub-continent has historically 'lived with nature' and promoted this environmental consciousness through its oral traditions. Coined by the Indian Prime Minister, Shri Narendra Modi, Lifestyle for Environment or LiFE is India's contribution to find the solutions towards climate change and environmental degradation.

The larger discussions on climate change and environmental degradation seem to have reached a stalemate with development policies of States. However, addressing this challenge requires a comprehensive approach which covers education to values, and from lifestyle to developmental philosophy. LiFE, as envisioned by the Indian PM, focuses on behavioural change. Respect for nature, the judicious use of resources, reducing our needs and living within ones means have all been important aspects of both India's traditions and its present-day efforts. As Prime Minister Modi has

said, respect for nature is an integral part of our culture and protection of environment comes naturally to us. The present generation, has the responsibility to act as a trustee of the rich natural wealth for future generations.

LiFE complements scientific, political, and economic measures currently undertaken towards global environmental governance. It has close linkages with several SDGs, particularly SDG 12 pertaining to sustainable production and consumption. The global discussion on sustainable production and consumption has started comparatively recently with Italian G20 Presidency and the European Union (EU) hosting an online workshop on circular fashion on 7 June 2021. But

India has traditionally been practising this approach for centuries.

Civil society organizations are important facilitators in such situations to bring the community experiences from different countries in the global environmental frameworks.

The Foundations of LiFE

Panch Tatva (the five fundamental elements) – They are Akash (Space), Vayu (Air), Agni (Energy/Fire), Jal (Water) and, Bhumi (Earth). These five elements form the foundation of the universe. The Atharva Veda emphasizes this fact and states that the creation of the universe is a result of the combination of these five essential elements. It is said that our existence is intricately connected to these five basic elements.

Components of LiFE in Previous G20 Summits

Indian Prime Minister Narendra Modi introduced the Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE) movement at COP 26 of the Climate Convention in Glasgow, UK in 2021. He called upon the global community of individuals and institutions to drive LiFE as an international mass movement towards

‘mindful and deliberate utilisation, instead of mindless and destructive consumption’.

Environment and climate have been part of the G20 discussion process for a significant time. The last 5 Presidencies from 2017 to 2021 have reiterated



commitments towards the protection and conservation of the environment and securing the future of our planet. These commitments are in the form of improving climate finance, technology transfer, switching over to renewable energy etc.

G20 Indonesia 2022 declaration integrated nutrition, poverty, development and conservation commitments. The G20 Indonesia Environment Ministers recognized

cultural diversity as a source of sustainable living. The chair summary of ministerial meeting has specific reflection towards some aspects of lifestyle and environment linkage. Continuing support towards the G20 platform for the localization of SDG is another commitment which is linked to lifestyle-related aspects. Agriculture ministers reiterated support for the technical platform on measurement and reduction of food loss and waste.

Life Working Group of C20 under India's Presidency

LiFE has been introduced for the first time as a working group theme of C20 under India's G20 presidency. It is being presented at a time when global environmental governance needs cultural and value-based transformation.

The working group deliberated on sub themes: grassroots innovations, Panchatatva, food, Indic wisdom, fashion, water, habitat, waste, industry, education, and nature-based solutions and conducted two outreach programs specially meant for community engagement (Higher

education student engagement program and LiFE, the Nandurbar way). The deliberations of the group in the form of conferences, workshops, plenaries, presentations, and web meetings were attended by various stakeholders. These deliberations covered various facets of human life and brought about recommendations pertaining to both life vision and lifestyle.

The deliberations were focused on formulating certain principles, and recommendations, building an

ecosystem of CSOs and learning alliance that will continue working on LiFE in the future G20 presidencies and in other multilateral forums. It is now building the required momentum to individual and community efforts towards sustainable lifestyles and ultimately towards Sumangalam, the global well-being.

Following are the recommendations of LiFE working group based on its sub-thematic deliberations

Recommendations and Implications

1. To prepare a value-based sustainability framework to guide and assess the progress of countries.
 - Global wellbeing i.e., Sumangalam will be the universal principle of this framework. This framework will include a set of values, concepts, instruments and actionable for individuals and communities. This will bring a much-required holistic perspective to the subject of sustainability. The set of values would comprise of compassion, gratitude, respecting diversity, a sense of responsibility, decentralisation, harmony, using local resources (and not drawing from far-off places) etc. Behavioural indicators, goals and levels of progress can be defined from these sets of values.
 - LiFE along with the value-based sustainability framework aims to bring in a paradigm shift from a rights-based approach to a responsibility-based approach in global environmental governance.

2. To create a knowledge repository on LiFE: G20 member countries should set up a knowledge repository of good practices - of individuals, communities and business entities. Such knowledge repositories will be helpful in developing guidelines to bring out changes in individual lifestyles, and community lifestyles so that ecological and carbon footprint can be reduced.
3. To recognize grassroots innovations as an important asset to humanity and as a separate category in all kinds of international policy formulations. Grassroots innovators have been an important asset of humanity. They are assisting in improving resource efficiency and the effectiveness of the circular economy. Their role in the three 'R's - reuse, recycle and repair - out of the six 'R's of the circular economy is important. Recognizing their contribution and linking them in addressing environmental problems is urgently required.
4. To promote and encourage local and seasonal foods for local consumers: G20 member countries should promote and encourage consumption of locally grown, processed, stored and value-added foods. It is desirable for human health and for the environment also. Local production – local consumption saves transportation and energy also. Local food consumed locally may support the conservation of local varieties of crop varieties. Seasonal food has less preservatives and is healthier for the populace.
5. To encourage sustainable green-fashion over fast-fashion: The global fashion industry is estimated to be responsible for 10% of global carbon emissions – more than international flights and maritime shipping combined. G20 member countries should encourage and promote sustainable-green fashion which is all-inclusive. There should be a thrust on products, processes, activities, and stakeholders (policymakers, brands, consumers) aiming to achieve a carbon-neutral fashion sector based on equality, social justice, animal welfare, and ecological integrity.
6. To encourage and incentivize mindful consumption and responsible disposal: In most of the developing and emerging countries,

waste collection and segregation value chains remain largely informal. The linkage between formal and informal waste collection and segregation should be strengthened. Lack of awareness and education hinder effective waste management. Promoting pride and responsibility and incentivizing responsible disposal in keeping cities clean can help overcome this problem.

7. To recognize that switching over to LiFE is a socio-emotional-ethical-spiritual exercise: Connection and reconnection with Nature must begin from the foundational stage (i.e., ages 3 to 8 years) itself through practical, real-life experiences. Practical and experiential, activity-based learning with hands-on engagement is required at all levels.

i). To promote and adopt Nature-based Solutions (NbS)

8. NbS are well-known techniques (for example, sacred landscapes, traditional agroforestry etc.) with an emphasis on local-level adaptation and in many cases, building upon the traditional wisdom and techniques of communities.

- When implemented in a proper way, they have multiplier effects such as integrated watershed management resulting in soil and water conservation, improving agriculture productivity, enhancing tree cover, and strengthening livelihoods in a cost-effective manner.

9. To mandate the implementation of circular economy principles in all economic sectors.

- G20 member countries should make it mandatory in all sectors of their economy to implement the circular economy principles. They should formulate and/or bring out necessary changes in their existing policies.
- This linear economic model generates about 50 per cent of all greenhouse gas emissions. Materials are transformed through production processes, used or consumed, and discarded into the environment.
- Circular economy offers a response to these challenges by reducing waste and closing material and process loops, thereby preserving natural capital.

- Industries and businesses that implement projects on efficient resource management and sustainable waste management should be given green credits which can be redeemed for tax benefits, grants, or other financial rewards.
- Adoption of less water-intensive practices – in food, crops, etc. is important.
- Effective demand side and supply side management in all sectors where water is an integral component is needed.

10. To ensure judicious use and equitable distribution of water in all walks of LiFE.

- Water is an important tatva (basic principle) in panchatatva.
- Reuse and recycle water in daily use is like creating fresh water.



Udaaharans

Recognizing Grassroot Innovators

Palle Srujana is a volunteer group based in Hyderabad, India. It is dedicated to enhancing the life of grassroots innovators. Palle Srujana undertakes shodh yatras (search expeditions) to identify and document innovators. After identifying the innovator, it supports the technical improvement of the raw innovation, validation, and patenting the same. So far Palle Srujana has identified about 78 innovators, more than 1000 traditional

practices and registered them with National Innovation Foundation. Three innovators received have Padmashree Award, India's third highest civilian award for their innovations. Palle Srujana runs purely on volunteer basis. Dedicated volunteers who are passionate about grassroots innovations and have immense compassion for the grassroots innovators are key to the work of Palle Srujana.

LiFE as Sustainable Domestic Consumption

Mumbai Grahak Panchayat is a membership-based consumer organization with 32000 members based in Mumbai, India. With 3500 volunteers, this is wholly managed by volunteers. Every month it conducts cooperative buying of groceries and essential household items for its members and subsequent decentralized distribution.

Cooperative buying and decentralised distribution save considerable amounts

of energy and fossil fuels. At the same time, they reduce use of plastic, make available environment friendly products at doorsteps, encourage local production- consumption cycle etc.

All these lead to a lifestyle which is eco-conscious and action oriented. Along with that it promotes a thought of connectedness and collectiveness in all its members which is key precursor for LiFE.



भारतीय प्रौद्योगिकी संस्थान दिल्ली INDIAN INSTITUTE OF TECHNOLOGY DELHI



LiFE as a CSO initiative

Tree Plantation in Nandurbar District, Maharashtra State, India.

Nandurbar is a remote district located in Satpuda mountains in Western India. The predominant population of Nandurbar is tribal and forest

dependent. As a step towards LiFE, CSOs in the district have planned plantation of 25,000 plants on the 25th foundation day (1st July 2023) of the district.

Digital pledge on LiFE

LiFE Working Group of C20 in association with premier higher educational institutes and a network of CSOs has facilitated the digital pledge2

on LiFE by hundreds of citizens from various parts of the country through social media platforms and in person meetings.

A Case of Individual urban LiFE

Mr. Mayur & Mrs. Sujata Bhave and their family are residents of Pune city, India. This family of six members has adopted 5 R principles - Refuse, Reduce, Reuse, Recycle, Replenish. Bhave family's biogas runs on kitchen waste to fulfil 75% fuel requirement and 100% waste treatment. A terrace garden with a honeybee box provides a

cooling effect and promotes pollination in the surrounding area. Bhave family has adopted multiple water saving ideas and imbibed them into their lifestyle.

Continuous conscious efforts to reduce environmental burden of everyday activity is the key for LiFE.

LiFE as community water conservation through revival of age-old tradition

Halma is an age-old practice in the Bhil community in Jhabua district of Madhya Pradesh state in India. The practice is meant to help the distressed without expecting anything in return. In Jhabua district, the distressed was the mother earth. The underlying feeling of Bhil community was 'She is thirsty'. From 2010, Shivganga Abhiyan, a community organisation is calling Halma every year. Thousands of tribal villagers participate

in this movement. They come with the equipment needed for the manual soil work. They prepare contour trenches on hills dig pits for plantations. All this has been done for society and not for any individual benefit. This self-initiative takes place in their own villages. This effort has shown changes on the ground in the form of improved water availability.

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CIVIL20 INDIA WORKING

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ONE EARTH • ONE FAMILY • ONE FUTURE



PEOPLES' 20

POLICY PACK ON
G20
Summit

Peoples' Voice for a
Just, Equitable and
Peaceful World

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What is PEOPLES' 20?

PEOPLES' 20 is a global network and initiative comprising civil society actors and organizations that voluntarily engage with the G20 summit and related processes. It was officially launched on March 1, 2023, following a series of consultation meetings among CSOs in India and internationally who have been actively involved with the G20 since 2010.

Recognizing the potential of the G20 to address global financial and economic challenges, PEOPLES' 20 believes that the G20 has largely failed to effectively tackle global systemic problems, such as economic inequality, international financial architecture, debt sustainability, and climate catastrophe.

PEOPLES' 20 strives to ensure that the voices of marginalized and excluded communities and peoples are heard and reflected in international decision-making processes within the G20. It advocates for people's concerns, human and people's rights, and the protection of the earth in the face of various global crises and challenges affecting both G20 and non-G20 countries.

These challenges include, among many others, economic and social impoverishment and exclusion, inequality, as well as armed conflicts, militarization, and crises related to health, education, food, energy, and climate.

PEOPLES' 20 seeks to enhance the accountability of the G20 by urging strict adherence to international agreements and commitments, including but not limited to the UN Charter, 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Paris Climate Agreement, and international treaties on human rights, labor, environment, peace, and security, as well as the Doha Programme of Action for the Least Developed Countries (DPoA) adopted in March 2023.

PEOPLES' 20 aims to engage critically with the G20 Summit, including ministers, Sherpa, and working group meetings, and related bodies such as the engagement groups to promote global justice, equality, and peace in a complementary and independent manner.

PEOPLES' 20 also aims to engage with various stakeholder groups of the G20, such as CSOs, labor organizations, think tanks, women's groups, and youth, in solidarity with other like-minded CSOs and their networks at other inter-governmental processes, including the UN, G7, and BRICS.

PEOPLES' 20's governance structure currently consists of six Co-conveners from both G20 and non-G20 countries, a group of international advisers, working groups, and task forces.

Policy Pack on G20 Summit

Policy Pack on G20 Summit (Final Version 1 on 22 August 2023)

The Policy Pack on G20 Summit stands as a comprehensive compendium, highlighting the identification of challenges, pertinent issues, and pivotal policy recommendations presented by PEOPLES' 20. It basically addresses the fundamental themes of the 2023 G20 Summit in India. These recommendations have been distilled from the insights garnered through thematic working documents, alongside supplementary reference materials from akin-minded international Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and their networks. A series of regional consultations were further held in Bangkok and in various places in India culminating in a two-day People's 20 Assembly. All the inputs were taken to finalise this document. The Policy Pack assumes the role of a crucial advocate, echoing the perspectives of civil society and voluntary people's movements engaging in the proceedings of the 2023 G20 Summit and its interconnected initiatives.

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Introduction

The G20 New Delhi Summit (9-10 September 2023) will be held at a time of significant geo-political and economic turmoil. The world is still recovering from the COVID-19 pandemic, and the war in Ukraine has further disrupted global supply chains and caused food and energy prices to soar. In addition, the impact of climate change is already evident, affecting vulnerable communities and ecosystems worldwide.

The G20, since its foundation in 1999 as an international forum comprising major advanced and emerging economies, has played a crucial role in shaping global finance and the economy. Its significance became even more evident in the aftermath of the 2008 global financial crisis, which originated in the United States and had a profound impact on the global economy.

As the crisis spread and affected economies worldwide, the G20 emerged in 2009 as a critical Summit for heads of state and government to come together, coordinate responses, and find collective solutions. Recognizing the urgency of the situation, the G20 provided a vital platform for dialogue, cooperation, and policy coordination among its member countries to tackle the unprecedented challenges posed by the financial crisis.

G20 Response to Global Economic Crisis

However, the G20's response to the subsequent crises and challenges has been largely reactive, with little focus on prevention or long-term solutions. This has led to a cycle of crisis-response-recovery and then new crises that fails to address the root causes of economic instability and inequality.

The G20's response to global economic crises has been too reliant on the interests of powerful countries and multinational corporations, at the expense of the interest of the developing countries specially the least developed countries (LDCs). This has led to concerns about the G20's legitimacy and effectiveness in promoting economic justice and equality.

The G20's response to global economic crises has also been too limited in scope, focusing primarily on short term commercial profit driven financial and economic issues while neglecting broader social and environmental and climate justice considerations. This has led to calls for a more holistic and integrated approach to global economic governance that takes into account issues such as climate change, human rights, and social justice.

The G20 countries' response to emerging threats to security and peace, such as the situations in Syria and Ukraine, has been deemed inadequate, as they have failed to take necessary collective actions to prevent or resolve these conflicts effectively. This failure has resulted in unprecedented humanitarian and human rights crises. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a clear violation of the UN Charter, and it is imperative for all G20 members to prioritize the restoration of peace in Ukraine, transcending their individual geopolitical interests.

Due to the above-mentioned reactive, short-term, and narrow approach, geopolitical interests as well as its bias towards powerful interests, the G20 has not been effective in addressing economic crises and promoting economic, social, gender and climate justice and equality. Therefore, we strongly advocate for a more proactive, long-term, inclusive, and holistic approach, which is essential to address the root causes of economic instability and promote global sustainability.

The G20 Summit stands at a crucial juncture, facing the choice between another routine 'business as usual' event or seizing the historic momentum to drive a paradigm shift towards a more inclusive finance and economy. As we anticipate the G20 Summit in 2023, we earnestly hope that world leaders will recognize this pivotal opportunity to collectively address the pressing challenges confronting the world today.

The summit's ultimate success hinges on the willingness of G20 leaders to collaborate, find common ground, and make necessary compromises. If they can rise to the occasion, the G20 Summit has the potential to lay the essential groundwork for a more just, equitable and prosperous global community.

The success of the G20 Summit will not only be measured by its immediate outcomes but also by its long-term impact. If world leaders seize this historic moment, the summit can pave the way for transformative change, laying the foundation for a future where nations collaborate harmoniously and prioritize the well-being of people and the planet in line with the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. This would be a testament to the G20's ability to adapt and rise to the challenges of the times, setting a positive example for international leadership and cooperation.

G20 Work Stream and Agenda

The G20 operates through three key pillars of work, namely the Finance Track, Sherpa Track, and Engagement Groups. Each pillar plays a crucial role in addressing global challenges and formulating policies for sustainable development.

Under the Finance Track, the G20 India Secretariat identifies 8 key issues for focused attention. These issues encompass various aspects of international finance and economic cooperation, aimed at promoting stability and growth in the global financial system. The Financial Ministers and Central Governors Meeting (FMCGM) usually meets 4 times through the year and holds an important role as the central decision-making body on financial matters within the G20 framework prior to the G20 Summit.

The Sherpa Track, on the other hand, focuses on 13 different issues related to economic and social development. It serves as a platform for high-level representatives, known as sherpas, to engage in discussions, negotiations, and policy coordination to advance the G20 agenda.

Additionally, the G20 has established 11 Engagement Groups, which serve as institutionalized channels for gathering input and perspectives from diverse stakeholders. These groups represent civil society, businesses, academia, and various sectors to contribute their insights to the G20's policy discussions.

G20 AGENDA AND WORKSTREAMS (INDIA, 2023)

FINANCE TRACK (8)	SHERPA TRACK (13)	ENGAGEMENT GROUP (11)
1. (Financial) Framework WG (FWG)	1. Agriculture	1. Business 20
2. International Financial Architecture (IFA)	2. Anti-corruption	2. Civil 20
3. Infrastructure WG (IWG)	3. Culture	3. Labour 20
4. Sustainable Finance WG (SFWG)	4. Digital Economy	4. Parliament 20
5. Global Partnership for Financial Inclusions (GPFI)	5. Disaster Risk Reduction	5. Science 20
6. Joint Finance and Health Task Force	6. Development	6. Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI) 20
7. International Taxation Agenda	7. Education	7. Startup 20
8. Financial Sector Issues	8. Employment	8. Think 20
	9. Environment and Climate Sustainability	9. Urban 20
	10. Energy Transitions	10. Women 20
	11. Health	11. Youth 20
	12. Trade and Investment	
	13. Tourism	

Civil Society Voices

As the PEOPLES' 20, a critical voice of civil society and people's movement, we are pleased to present this Policy Pack containing a set of recommendations that we believe offer a comprehensive response to the urgent global challenges and questions posed above.

These recommendations have been developed through extensive consultations and discussions among members of the PEOPLES' 20 and like-minded Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) on key policy areas of the G20 agenda. Our focus areas include economy and finance, economic and social development, environment and climate, peace and security, democracy and civic space, democratic global governance, and youth empowerment.

With the collective wisdom and expertise of our diverse civil society members and partners, we propose policy solutions that prioritize inclusivity, social justice, environmental sustainability, and human rights. Our aim is to ensure that the G20's decisions and actions resonate with the aspirations and well-being of people around the world, leaving no one behind.

In the realm of economy and finance, we advocate for measures that promote fair and equitable economic growth, address income inequality, and prioritize support for vulnerable populations, including marginalized communities and workers.

For economic and social development, we urge the G20 to prioritize investments in education, healthcare, and social safety nets, with a focus on eradicating poverty and enhancing access to quality services for all.

In the face of the existential threat of climate change, we call for decisive action to accelerate the transition to renewable energy, reduce carbon emissions, and protect vulnerable communities from the impacts of climate disasters.

To foster global peace and security, we advocate for peaceful conflict resolution, arms control, nuclear disarmament, and the protection of human rights in conflict zones.

Democracy and civic space are fundamental to a just society, and we emphasize the importance of safeguarding democratic principles, protecting human rights defenders, and promoting open and participatory governance.

In the realm of democratic global governance, we urge the G20 to lead by example, placing a strong emphasis on transparency, accountability, and representation in its own decision-making processes that have significant impacts on global communities.

In this pursuit, the G20 should acknowledge and respect the central role of the UN in global policy-making. The UN serves as the preeminent multilateral institution, providing a platform for collective decision-making on global challenges and ensuring that the interests of all nations, big and small, are considered in the decision-making process. The G20 should actively cooperate with the UN and utilize its expertise, knowledge, and mechanisms to enhance global cooperation and address pressing issues.

Empowering youth is essential for sustainable development, and we call for greater investment in education, employment opportunities, and meaningful participation of young people in shaping policies and programs.

These recommendations are rooted in the shared values of the PEOPLES' 20, a collective that represents the diverse voices of civil society and people's movements. As advocates for positive change, we firmly believe that these policy proposals can serve as a blueprint for a more just, equitable, peaceful and sustainable world.

We present this Policy Pack with a sense of urgency and hope, calling on the G20 leaders to heed our collective voice and take meaningful action. By embracing these recommendations, the G20 can demonstrate true leadership in addressing the pressing global challenges we face today, leaving a lasting legacy of positive change for generations to come.

10 Guiding Principles for Policy Advocacy on G20 Summit

- 1. People-centered Multilateralism
- 2. Rule of Law and Accountability
- 3. Positive Peace and Human Security
- 4. Leave No One Behind
- 5. Gender Justice and Equality
- 6. Development Justice and Effectiveness
- 7. Climate Justice and Planetary boundary
- 8. Beyond the GDP
- 9. Intergenerational Justice and Equity
- 10. Resilient Democracy and Civic Space

1. People-centered Multilateralism

People-centered multilateralism is a foundation for democratic and inclusive global governance that emphasizes the active involvement and empowerment of individuals and communities in global decision-making processes at the UN and other international and multilateral bodies and processes. It also emphasizes that international decision-making should be based on universal values such as peace, universal human rights, economic, social and climate justice and global public goods rather than national interests and hegemonic power.

The UN is the legitimate central place for global governance, and the G20 is accountable to the international agreements facilitated and adopted at the UN. Therefore, the G20 should lead by example in respecting the international agreements and commitments such as the UN Charter, human rights conventions and peace treaties, the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, fundamental labour rights and standards, and Climate and other environmental agreements.

The G20 should also recognize the autonomous and diverse nature of civil society as an equal partner and ensure democratic space for active and meaningful participation of CSOs in the policy proposals developed by the G20.

2. Rule of Law and Accountability

The rule of law and accountability are the basis for a fair, just, and transparent global economic and financial system. The rule of law emphasizes fair and impartial legal processes in addressing international disputes, while accountability emphasizes the responsibility of governments and institutions to act in the public interest and to be accountable for their actions.

Both require coherent international legal frameworks, democratic governance structures, and transparency in economic decision-making. The rule of law must be maintained and upheld at the national and international levels in addressing international conflicts and disputes.

All the national and international policies developed by the G20 and its governments should be coherent with the international agreements and commitments based on peace, universal human rights, economic, social and climate justice, and ecological sustainability and in line with the global agenda such as the 2030 Agenda, Paris Climate Agreement, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).

In particular, all the member states of G20 should respect and ratify – if not yet the case – and substantively implement the international agreed norms and treaties such as all 9 core international human rights treaties and their optional protocols, and core ILO conventions.

3. Positive Peace and Human Security

Positive Peace and Human Security emphasize the importance of addressing the root causes of conflict and violence and promoting the well-being and safety of individuals and communities. Both are fundamental to promoting democratic and sustainable development and to addressing the global challenges facing the world today, such as conflict, economic and multidimensional poverty, hunger, inequalities, climate change, and pandemics. This is prerequisite to conflict prevention.

The G20, a group of the most industrialized and militarily powerful countries, including the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council and major nuclear power countries, should act in a responsible manner to prevent and resolve the ongoing armed conflicts as well as build sustained peace through peaceful and diplomatic means for a safe, peaceful, and prosperous world for all.

All member states of G20 should respect and ratify – if not yet the case – and substantively implement the international agreed norms and treaties on peace and security such as the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW), Arms Trade Treaty (ATT) and Landmine Treaty.

4. Leave No One Behind

The "Leave No One Behind (LNOB)" the motto of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and SDGs, emphasizes that development must be inclusive and equitable, and that no one should be left behind in the pursuit of sustainable development.

It recognizes that all individuals have the right to participate in and benefit from development as articulated in the 1986 UN Declaration on the Right to Development and the 1992 UN Rio Conference on Environment and Development. It emphasizes the need for development efforts to be guided by the principles of universality, non-discrimination, and accountability.

All the policies developed by the G20 must be inclusive of peoples from both G20 and non-G20 countries in accordance with the leave no one behind principle, and proactively avoid the negative global impacts of G20 countries' economic, climate and political actions.

5. Gender Justice and Equality

Gender equality is a fundamental human right and a key development goal that is essential for promoting sustainable development and achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). It requires the empowerment of women and girls in all their diversity and the protection and promotion of their rights, including their right to sexual and reproductive health, as well as their sexual orientation and gender identity. The gender-transformative approach promotes gender equality that address the underlying power imbalances, economic hierarchies and social norms that perpetuate gender inequality.

Therefore, all policies developed by the G20 should be guided by and contribute to the promotion of the principle of gender equality and gender-transformative approach, based on the Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW), ILO Indigenous and Tribal Peoples Convention, and the other human rights conventions, and the UN OHCHR's Guidance Tool on Descent-based Discrimination.

6. Economic Justice, Social Justice and Development Effectiveness

Economic and Social emphasizes the need for an inclusive, participatory, and equitable approach to development that prioritizes the needs and aspirations of marginalized and oppressed communities. It recognizes the structural causes of poverty and hunger, inequalities, and social, political and economic exclusions, and addresses them through transformative change.

Development effectiveness aims to improve the impact of development efforts by promoting transparent coordination, accountability, and learning among development actors. It emphasizes the importance of mutual accountability, partnership, local ownership, and results-based management in achieving development goals in line with the internationally recognized principles such as common but differentiated responsibilities in the principle 7 of the 1992 Rio Declaration on Environment and Development.

Therefore, all policies developed by the G20 need to be guided by and contribute to the promotion of Development Justice and Effectiveness.

7. Climate Justice and Planetary Boundary

Climate justice recognizes the unequal distribution of the impacts of climate change on different communities and countries and seeks to address this inequality by calling for an equitable distribution of the benefits and costs of climate action. It implies that developed countries and major polluters should take historical responsibility for reducing their greenhouse gas emissions, by contributing on time and as committed to global climate funds, such as for example a global fund for climate loss and damage.

The planetary boundary framework defines the safe operating space for humanity on Earth based on multiple planetary boundaries, such as climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification and ocean acidification. It emphasizes the need for global cooperation to prevent these boundaries from being exceeded and to ensure that humanity can continue to thrive within the limits of the Earth's natural systems.

Therefore, all policies developed by the G20 need to be guided by the principles of Climate Justice and Planetary Boundary and contribute to their promotion.

8. Beyond the Gross Domestic Product (GDP)

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the last target of the SDG 17.19, recognizes the need for new measurements beyond the Gross Domestic Product (GDP), which is a monetary measure of the market

value of all final goods and services produced within a country. Beyond GDP metrics include indices on inequality, well-being and happiness, and environmental sustainability and the care economy.

The G20 need to support and participate in the global efforts to develop alternative index to access the government's performances and impact of its policies on people and planet and apply it nationally and internationally.

9. Intergenerational Justice and Equity

Intergenerational justice and equity emphasize the importance of ensuring that the current young generation and future generations have the same opportunities and resources as current generations. Future generations' ability to fulfil their rights and achieve their goals should not be compromised. It requires a long-term perspective and a commitment to sustainable development that takes into account the long-term impact of climate change, resource depletion, biodiversity loss, and other environmental and social, economic and political challenges.

The Summit of the Future (SOTF) to be held in September 2024 as part of the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda pose new opportunity for intergenerational dialogue and cooperation and leadership role for the next generation.

All policies implemented by the G20 by current generations should ensure that future generations have access to the same opportunities and resources in education, healthcare, and all global public goods and economic opportunities, as well as access to a clean and healthy environment.

10. Resilient Democracy and Civic Space

Resilient democracy emphasizes a country's political system's ability to withstand and recover from external shocks, including threats to democratic institutions. Civic space emphasizes citizens' right and actual ability to participate in civic life. Both are essential for democratic and sustainable development and the promotion of social, economic, political and climate justice and peace as articulated in SDG 16, as well as the 1948 Universal Declaration of Human Rights and the UN 1986 Declaration on the Right to Development.

For resilient democracy and civic space, fundamental freedoms such as the right to information, freedom of expression, assembly, and association, as well as fair and transparent elections, should be guaranteed nationally and internationally. At the same time, the role of human rights defenders, as agreed in the 1998 UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders, should be respected and promoted.

The G20 countries should contribute to the global effort to build more resilient democracies and promote civic space in their own countries and internationally as emphasized in the G7 Open Societies Statement (2021) and Resilient Democracies (2022).

Policy Recommendations on Finance and Economy



Context

Established in 1999 as an international forum of major advanced and emerging economies, the G20 has exerted considerable influence in shaping global finance and economics. Its importance became even more apparent following the 2008 global financial crisis, which originated in the United States and had far-reaching consequences for the global economy.

As the crisis spread and affected economies around the world, the G20 emerged as a key platform for leaders and policymakers to coordinate responses and seek collective solutions to the global financial turmoil. However, in the face of subsequent crises and challenges, such as the euro area debt crisis or trade tensions between major economies, national interest-driven approaches have at times undermined collective efforts to find comprehensive solutions.

The G20's financial agenda comprises eight thematic areas, which are addressed by working groups and task forces under the Finance Track of the Finance Ministers' and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (FMCGM), as well as some under the Sherpa Track. These working bodies address critical financial and economic issues and foster dialogue and cooperation among G20 members to address challenges and promote financial stability.

G20 AGENDA AND WORKING BODIES IN 2023

FINANCE TRACK (8)	SHERPA TRACK (13)
1. Framework WG (FWG)	1. Agriculture
2. International Financial Architecture (IFA) WG	2. Anti-corruption
3. Sustainable Finance WG (SFWG)	3. Culture
4. Global Partnership for Financial Inclusions (GPFI) WG	4. Digital Economy
5. Financial Sector Issues WG	5. Disaster Risk Reduction
6. International Taxation Agenda WG	6. Development
7. Infrastructure WG (IWG)	7. Education
8. Joint Finance and Health Task Force	8. Employment
	9. Environment and Climate Sustainability
	10. Energy Transitions
	11. Health
	12. Trade and Investment
	13. Tourism

(Financial) Framework

The Framework Working Group, established at the 2009 G20 Pittsburgh Summit as one of the Working Groups in the Finance Track, is a platform to address global economic governance and policy coordination. It has addressed issues related to macroeconomic policies, financial stability, regulation and reform, trade and investment policies.

International Financial Architecture (IFA)

The International Financial Architecture (IFA) has been an important part of the G20 agenda since its inception. The Working Group on IFA was established at the 2008 G20 Summit in Washington to address international cooperation among G20 countries in four pillars - financial regulation, supervision, international cooperation, market infrastructure and financial inclusion.

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI)

The Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), launched in 2012 at the G20 Mexico, is a platform to promote access to financial services for underserved and vulnerable populations. It addresses issues related to access to basic financial services such as banking, savings, credit and insurance for individuals and businesses in low-income and marginalised communities.

Sustainable Finance

The Working Group on Sustainable Finance, established in 2015 at the G20 Hanzhou Summit, is a policy platform to integrate environmental, social and governance (ESG) factors into the global financial system. The Working Group is currently focused on mechanisms to mobilise timely and adequate resources for climate finance, enabling finance for the SDGs, and building the capacity of the financing ecosystem for sustainable development.

Financial Sector Issues

Established in 2008, the G20 Financial Sector Issues is an important agenda item in the G20's efforts to promote financial stability, resilience and cooperation, which are critical components of the global financial system. The Financial Sector Issues Working Group has addressed issues related to capital and liquidity requirements, risk management and stress testing to ensure the soundness of banks and their ability to withstand economic shocks.

International Taxation

The G20 Working Group on International Taxation, established in 2015 at the G20 Antalya Summit, is a policy platform to address global tax issues and promote international tax cooperation. It has addressed a range of issues including tax avoidance, tax evasion and base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) by multinational enterprises.

Infrastructure

The G20 Infrastructure Working Group (IWG), established in 2016 at the G20 Hanzhou Summit, is a component of the G20's efforts to promote sustainable and inclusive economic growth through infrastructure development. It has addressed a range of issues including infrastructure investment, quality infrastructure, project preparation and financing, infrastructure connectivity, and green infrastructure.

Joint Finance and Health Task Force

The G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force is a key collaborative initiative established in response to the unprecedented global health and economic challenges posed by the COVID-19 pandemic. It was launched at the G20 virtual Summit 2020 (Saudi Arabia) in the midst of the COVID-19 pandemic outbreak to urgently address the need for coordinated action to address the interrelated health and financial challenges. It specifically addressed the two pillars: mitigating the impact of the pandemic on public health, and fiscal and monetary policies to support economies during the crisis and promote a sustainable recovery.

The Economic and Financial Policy Pack presents a set of policy recommendations based on its analysis and reflection on the outcome documents of the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors' Meeting (FMCGM) and its working groups and task forces on the agenda of the Finance Track alongside the detailed inputs received from social sector experts and civil society representatives from across the countries who gathered at the People's Assembly during 23-24th August 2023.

Major Challenges and Issues

Despite the positive role played by the G20 in addressing the global financial crisis in 2008, it's legitimacy, effectiveness and relevance have been called into question by several critical issues.

First, the composition of the G20, which includes both powerful advanced economies and emerging markets, can create a power dynamic that favours the larger and more influential economies. This has led to policies

that do not adequately address the concerns of less powerful countries, particularly least developed or low-income countries, and have perpetuated global economic inequalities.

Second, the G20 operates as a forum for discussion and cooperation, but its policies and recommendations lack legal binding and enforcement. As a result, many policy recommendations have not been implemented, and there is no formal independent accountability mechanism to track G20 members' compliance with their own decisions.

Third, the G20's approach to financial issues relies heavily on market-driven solutions and private sector involvement. As a result, this approach has failed to adequately address social and environmental challenges, leading to policy gaps in sustainable finance and financial inclusion.

Furthermore, while the G20 has attempted to address financial sector reform, including reform of the international financial architecture, it has failed to effectively address the systemic risks that have led to financial crises. The G20's focus on financial stability and economic growth has at times overshadowed social and environmental priorities.

Another major concern is the opacity of the G20's decision-making processes, which lack accountability and transparency in policy formulation and implementation. In addition, the consensus-driven approach has led to delayed or no response to emerging financial crises or problems.

Most critically, all debt management efforts have failed miserably due to interests of the global north. DSSI suspended debts of only USD 13 billion for 5 years, while the Low Income Countries still ended up paying three times more than the suspended debt. Common Framework was even a bigger failure; out of 3-4 countries which applied, only one country could complete the highly cumbersome procedure. Reallocation of the Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) for LICs who needed it most, received less than 2% of the USD 650 billion reallocated as western world continues to drag its feet on reallocating it to the most needy countries. Western world blames it on China, however, the reality is that China owns only a small percentage of global debt (less than 20%) while USA & UK along with few more G20 countries own more than 60%. They have also deliberately not involved private creditors. The debt sustainability initiatives, therefore, are creating further debts for smaller countries.

Inequality and regressive taxation

Income and wealth inequality have peaked sharply to a new level. The richest 10% of the global population currently takes 52% of global income, whereas the poorest half of the population earns 8.5% on it. Moreover, global wealth inequality has become more pronounced than income inequality. The poorest half of the global population barely owns any wealth at all, possessing just 2% of the total. In contrast, the richest 10% of the global population own 76% of all wealth.

Asia is in spotlight in the year 2023 with all the major international summits happening in the region – the G7 in Japan (May), the G20 in India (September), the COP 28 in the United Arab Emirates (November-December), and the recently concluded Fifth United Nations Conference on the Least Developed Countries (LDC5) in Qatar. South Asia is the most unequal sub-region in all of Asia. Every country in South Asia has a level of disposable income inequality high enough for it to be reducing per capita GDP growth by between 1 and 4%. Income inequality produced by the market is the highest in India, the country hosting G20 summit in 2023. While the top 10% and top 1% in India hold respectively 57% and 22% of total national income, the share of the bottom 50% has gone down to 13%. Likewise, the top 10% and 1% in India respectively own 65% and 33% of the total wealth while the bottom 50% own only 6% of the same. Meanwhile, after direct taxes and transfers by governments, the most unequal country in Asia is Sri Lanka, which is currently reeling under severe debt crisis.

Taxing wealth is an important redistributive policy through which the tax base can be broadened to raise revenues for financing inequality-reducing public services. For instance, according to the South Asia Wealth Tax Report 2022, a progressive net wealth tax in India (taxing net worth USD 5 million to USD 50 million at 3%; USD 50 million to USD 1 billion million at 5%; greater than USD 1 billion at 10%) could raise USD 84.30 billion by taxing 66,860 individuals with wealth of over USD 5 million. This amount is enough to double the education spending or more than triple the healthcare spending in India. Similar progressive net wealth taxation could raise USD 1.82 billion in Bangladesh and USD 1.34 billion in Pakistan, enough to increase healthcare spending by two-thirds and 50% respectively.

Alarming rise of illegitimate debt in the global South

Post-COVID, countries in the global South are facing serious difficulties in obtaining the fiscal means to have an inclusive recovery. Not only has the global economic shutdown (caused by the pandemic) hampered the ability to mobilise resources, many countries are forced to make large borrowings and further spend a big part of what little government revenue is coming in to service debt payments.

Even before the COVID-19 outbreak, there were serious concerns about the rapid debt build-up in developing countries, including the least developed countries (LDCs). According to the Development Cooperation Report 2023, the total external debt service of Least Developed Countries has more than tripled in the last ten years and is projected to reach USD 43 billion in 2022. Over the past two decades, debt service has been increasing in LDCs while government revenue and official development assistance have been declining. Such condition raises the risk of debt distress, undermining the ability of countries to invest in long-term sustainable development and resilience. Moreover, the debt composition has gradually shifted towards more costly and riskier instruments such as short-term, private and commercial debt, all of which simultaneously raised debt service and potential costs of renegotiation.

In the wake of the COVID-19 crisis, worsening debt sustainability is a common concern for LDCs and other developing countries alike. The current trends expose long-standing discriminations amidst systemic flaws of the prevailing international financial system.

Against this backdrop, the measures adopted by the G20, namely the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which expired at the end of 2021, and the G20 Common Framework for Debt Treatments beyond the DSSI, which are wholly insufficient in terms of action plans and represent false solutions for LDCs. The present context urgently requires immediate reforms, addressing both the lack of adequate access to development finance and the challenges posed by dangerously high levels of money for debt sustainability, including ways to facilitate unconditional debt cancellation of the most vulnerable and highly indebted countries in the global South.

Policy Recommendations

We strongly advocate for the following policy recommendations to enhance the G20's credibility as a critical global economic forum, empower its role in addressing global financial challenges and advancing sustainable development alongside the SDGs, and foster a fair and balanced international financial architecture:

1. Financial Framework and Financial Sector Issues

- 1) **Alignment with Global Agreements:** G20 leaders must critically review the policy framework and directions to ensure alignment and coherence with international agreements and agendas such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development / SDGs, Addis Ababa Action Agenda, Paris Climate Agreement, and Doha Program of Action for the LDCs (March 2023). This will ensure that G20 policies are synergistic with the broader global development agenda.
- 2) **Enhanced Inclusivity:** The G20 should ensure a more inclusive and representative composition by involving more countries from diverse regions and income levels. Special attention should be given to the permanent inclusion of the least developed countries, low-income countries, and regional organizations such as the African Union, South Asia Association for Regional Cooperation (SAARC), Arab Nations, and ASEAN.
- 3) **Responsive Crisis Management:** G20 leaders should develop agile and responsive mechanisms to address emerging financial crises promptly. Cooperation with the United Nations, considering the outcome document from the Conference on the World Financial and Economic Crisis and Its Impact on Development (July 2009), will help in effective crisis management. G20 leaders should focus on improving crisis preparedness and resolution mechanisms to effectively respond to financial crises. This includes establishing contingency plans, enhancing early warning systems, and developing tools for orderly debt restructuring in times of crisis.
- 4) **Independent Accountability Mechanism:** The establishment of a formal independent accountability mechanism is crucial to monitor the implementation of G20 decisions by member countries and

assess their impact on people's economic and social rights, livelihoods, and the environment. A human rights-based approach and social and environmental impact assessments should be incorporated to ensure responsible decision-making.

- 5) We urge the G20 leaders to take urgent actions to terminate Investor-State- Dispute-Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms, and to regulate credit rating agencies (CRAs).
- 6) We urge the G20 leaders to convene a Biennial Summit for the World Economy to achieve more Equitable Socio-Economic Recovery and address the systemic issues which require collective political will among the economically powerful countries.

2. Financial Inclusion

- 7) We urge the G20 leaders to review the development outcomes of public- private-partnerships, blended finance and other financing mechanisms established to promote a 'private finance first' approach to infrastructure and public services.
- 8) The G20 should adopt a balanced approach that considers social and environmental dimensions alongside financial stability and economic growth. This includes proactive measures to address systemic risks, promote sustainable finance, and prioritize financial inclusion for marginalized populations. Existing international human rights and environmental treaties should be taken into account to uphold global standards.
- 9) The G20 must prioritize policies that reduce income disparities and ensure a fair distribution of wealth. This includes strengthening labor market regulations, promoting inclusive economic growth, and fostering entrepreneurship opportunities, especially for marginalized communities, women, and youth.
- 10) We urge the G20 to prioritize financial inclusion initiatives, including access to affordable credit, savings, and insurance services, particularly for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) and underrepresented groups. Enabling inclusive access to finance will promote entrepreneurship, economic mobility, and reduce inequality.
- 11) Support Development Finance and Aid Effectiveness: The G20 should prioritize the effective use of development finance to support the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). This includes enhancing the effectiveness of Official Development Assistance (ODA) and promoting innovative financing mechanisms for development projects.
- 12) G20 leaders should advocate for policies that promote financial inclusion and ensure access to financial services for underserved populations, especially in developing countries. This can involve supporting initiatives that leverage technology to extend financial services to the unbanked and underbanked populations.

Introduce gender-responsive fiscal planning

- 13) Women's economic participation in labour market is limited with discriminatory reward system – women make only 35% of global labour incomes while men make the remaining 65%. This implies that reliance on regressive consumption taxes disproportionately hurts women as their proportional share of Value-Added Taxes (VAT) is much higher compared to their total incomes. In other words, women who are unpaid care workers or at the bottom of the income level may not pay income tax but are compelled to pay indirect taxes such as Value Added Tax (VAT) and sales tax, all the while being excluded from the benefits of paying such taxes. An example of this is that women might not work enough to qualify for benefits including pension systems, which will expose them to poverty during old age. Similarly, existing social norms and the legal systems favour men when it comes to owning and transferring the ownership of assets and properties deny women the fair share of wealth.
- 14) The COVID-19 pandemic has brought the issue of care work and services to the fore and highlighted the degree to which our societies are woefully unprepared to respond to such crises. In all countries, the brunt of care responsibility falls upon women, and this imbalance is worsened during periods of crisis. The pandemic has exposed the need for shifting discourse from the care economy, which has been used as a driver of care commodification, to the social organization of care. Care responsibilities are distributed unequally among households, State, market, community, and between women and

men. This discrimination is at the basis of other constraints on women's full and effective participation and decision-making in public life. The privatization of care services implicates a dynamic of time squeezing at the cost of the quality of care-services. Privatization and financialization, at the same time, combined with the low wages in the paid care sector, implicate a global extraction of female labour and lead to so-called "global care chains" that privilege households in the global North, while increasing the care gap in the global South. There is a need for the re-building of the social organization of care, that implies the 5Rs framework: i) Recognising the economic value of care work and care as a human right; ii) Rewarding: decent work and social protection iii) Reducing the burden of unpaid care work on women iv) Redistributing care work between households and State and v) Reclaiming the public nature of care services and the main responsibility of States in financing and proving universal and public care services.

- 15) We call upon the G20 leaders to bring policies on public finance and tax justice with the purpose of distributing the burden of taxation so that it does not intensify gender and intersectional inequalities:
- 16) Increase investment in care infrastructure to reduce women's disproportional care responsibilities.
- 17) Expedite gender budgeting processes to ensure that the fiscal system plays a transformative role in ending gender inequality, and ensure equal representation of women in all fiscal decision-making bodies. Carry out a gender-impact-assessment for all fiscal policies.
- 18) Carry out gender impact assessment of tax policies, economic partnership agreements, investment treaties and other such instruments that may have elements of taxation.
- 19) G20 countries should coordinate exchange rate policies to avoid competitive devaluations and maintain exchange rate stability. Transparent communication and cooperation on monetary policies are crucial for fostering a predictable and stable global monetary environment.
- 20) Reform Multilateral Trade Agreements: The G20 should support efforts to reform multilateral trade agreements to address the concerns of all member countries and foster a fair and open global trading system. This involves facilitating trade negotiations and addressing trade barriers and disputes through diplomatic means.
- 21) G20 leaders should promote digital financial innovation while ensuring consumer protection and cybersecurity. Supporting the development of fintech solutions and facilitating cross-border digital payments can foster financial inclusion and economic growth.
- 22) We urge the G20 leaders to expand the IMF's Special Drawing Rights as a Means for Debt Relief and Financing Critical Global Public Goods.

3. Sustainable Finance

- 23) Promote Sustainable Finance and Green Investments: The G20 should promote sustainable finance and incentivize green investments to address environmental challenges. This involves encouraging the integration of environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors in investment decisions and supporting initiatives that channel funds towards climate-friendly projects.
- 24) We urge the G20 leaders to re-commit to doubling the provision of climate finance for adaptation to developing countries by 2025.

4. International Financial Architecture:

- 1) The G20 should work towards enhancing the representation of emerging and developing economies in international financial institutions, such as the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and the World Bank. This could involve increasing their voting power and influence to reflect their growing economic significance.
- 2) The G20 countries should collaborate to establish and implement robust financial regulation and supervision standards to prevent systemic risks and enhance financial stability. This includes coordinating efforts to monitor cross-border financial flows and addressing issues related to shadow banking and non-bank financial intermediaries.

5. International Taxation and Tax Justice

- 1) The United Nations on 16 November 2022 voted in favour of a tax resolution put forward by the African Group of States, that has laid groundwork for a new UN convention on tax and a new global tax body. The UN body, unlike the one led by the OECD, is expected to be more representative with the provision of fair say to the LMICs in framing the rules of international tax architecture. While we welcome the UN resolution, we call on the G20 governments to press for accelerating the formation of a UN tax body to comprehensively tackle tax havens, tax avoidance and evasion, and bring progressive legislative reforms in the international tax architecture, thus potentially allowing accrual of higher tax revenues in the coffers of the LMICs.
- 2) G20 should take decisive action to close tax loopholes and combat tax evasion. This includes strengthening international cooperation to exchange tax-related information, implementing robust anti-avoidance measures, and promoting transparency in cross-border financial transactions. The G20 should also prioritize the development and implementation of comprehensive frameworks that prevent multinational corporations and high-net-worth individuals from engaging in aggressive tax planning practices.
- 3) The G20 should address the issue of corporate tax avoidance and ensure fair taxation of multinational corporations through establishing a global minimum corporate tax rate that prevents countries from engaging in harmful tax competition, implementing measures to prevent profit shifting and closing tax havens, and advocating for a fair allocation of taxing rights based on the value created in each jurisdiction.
- 4) The G20 should promote greater tax transparency and disclosure of beneficial ownership information including encouraging countries to adopt and implement robust mechanisms for identifying the true owners of companies and trusts, and making this information publicly accessible. The G20 should also support initiatives that facilitate the automatic exchange of tax information among jurisdictions, enhance country-by-country reporting by multinational corporations, and promote transparency in the extractive industries and other sectors prone to illicit financial flows.
- 5) The G20 should support developing countries in building their tax capacity and enhancing domestic revenue mobilization. This can be achieved through technical assistance, capacity-building programs, and the provision of resources to improve tax administration, combat tax evasion, and strengthen governance frameworks.
- 6) The G20 should also prioritize addressing the challenges faced by developing countries in dealing with tax base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS), ensuring that their interests and perspectives are taken into account in international tax discussions.
- 7) Civil society movements in the Global South have been demanding for a fair say in the drafting and implementation of global tax rules. The policy area on global tax rules has, however, been dominated by the OECD countries, including the US, the UK, and Japan. For instance, the G20 leaders finalized a new global tax deal brokered by the OECD, commonly called the Inclusive Framework (IF) deal, that has been endorsed by 137 countries and jurisdictions. The low- and low-middle-income countries (LMICs) have reservations against several issues on the IF deal: accrual of additional tax revenue mostly to high-income countries; lower rate of global minimum tax; the scope of companies included; and the possibility of tax arbitration process favouring Multi-National Corporations (MNCs). The African Tax Administration Forum (ATAF) and LMICs have especially been advocating for an independent intergovernmental tax administration body with universal membership to bring reforms in the current international tax system (and also in the proposed IF deal).
- 8) We call for suspension of all global tax policy-making mechanisms that are not inclusive of developing countries, including the current OECD-led Inclusive Framework (IF) on Base Erosion and Profit-Shifting (BEPS).

Implement progressive taxation, including wealth taxation

Taking note of the potential of wealth tax in broadening the tax base and making the tax structure progressive, we would like to draw the attention of the G20 Finance Track on the alarming level of economic inequality and demand that the G20 leaders pursue wealth taxation policy in their respective countries to tackle the problem:

- 9) Rebalance the tax system away from indirect taxes towards direct taxes on income and wealth. Exempt essential items and small traders from consumption taxes. Increase top rates of direct taxes. End unproductive corporate tax incentives, exemptions and holidays.
- 10) Introduce a full range of permanent wealth taxes, including net wealth taxes, inheritance and gift taxes, capital gains taxes and property taxes, applying progressive tax rates, with rates rising sharply for the wealthiest taxpayers.
- 11) Minimise exemptions, whilst applying reasonable thresholds before wealth taxes apply to keep them focussed on the wealthy.
- 12) Consider introducing an additional one-off net wealth 'solidarity tax' to boost revenues to respond to current crises and directly reduce extreme wealth inequality.
- 13) Ensure that corporate windfall taxes apply retrospectively and cover excess profits since the beginning of the COVID-19 pandemic. Ensure that windfall taxes are paid in addition to other corporate taxes.
- 14) Use increased tax revenues to boost spending on inequality-reducing public services, such as education, healthcare and social protection. Ensure that public services are of high quality, universal and free at the point of use.

6. Infrastructure

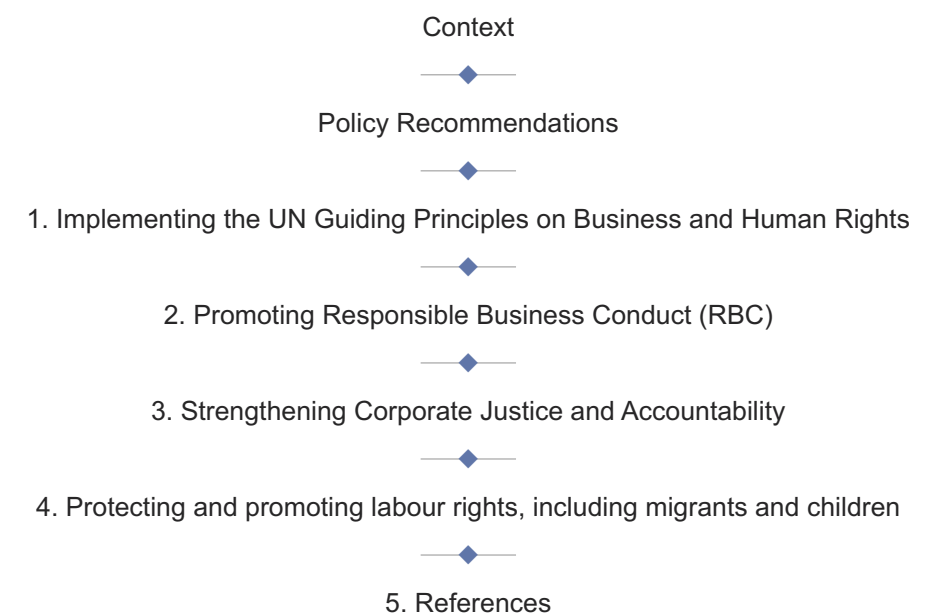
- 1) We urge the G20 leaders to develop transparent and predictable investment frameworks and quality infrastructure standards that take into account environmental sustainability, social inclusivity, and resilience to climate change.
- 2) We urge the G20 leaders to foster the adoption of green infrastructure solutions that contribute to carbon emission reduction and environmental sustainability through sustainable finance practices, such as green bonds and sustainable investment funds, to support ecofriendly infrastructure projects.

7. Debt

- 1 We call on the G20 to develop new concessional financing and urgent debt cancellation by all creditors to all borrowing countries in need, without undue-burden such as conditionality requirements, with a more effective approach to ensure all private creditors' contribution to debt cancellation and restructurings. Moreover, we also ask the G20 to undertake effective measures of debt cancellation and debt relief support for countries in urgent need such as through debt swaps, debt buy-backs, credit enhancements, re-profiling or exchanging debt, and/or cancellation.
- 2 We urge the G20 to support a more timely and orderly debt restructuring mechanism that in the short term:
 - a) Extends the eligibility to debt relief under the Common Framework to all vulnerable countries.
 - b) Provides debt standstills throughout debt restructuring negotiations for private as well as bilateral and multilateral creditors.
 - c) Clarifies and enforces comparability of treatment by private creditors.
 - d) Commits legislative protection and financial support to debtor countries who need to default on recalcitrant creditors, while debt cancellation and restructuring from other creditors should go ahead.
 - e) Considers other mechanisms that would allow countries to access the Common Framework without creating a stigma or compromising the credit rating of the beneficiaries, including funds and other instruments.
 - f) Introduces new bond contract laws with improved debt restructuring clauses and State-Contingent Debt Instruments.

- g) Effectively regulates credit rating agencies, to rethink the role of credit rating agencies in sovereign debt assessments, which need to recognize the long-term positive impacts of debt restructuring efforts and the negative impacts of debt restructuring delays.
 - h) Calls for more fiscal space for countries in the debt restructuring process: We ask the G20 to facilitate more fiscal space for countries in the debt restructuring process by:
3. We call upon the G20 to facilitate more fiscal space for countries in the debt restructuring process by:
- a) Issuing more and fresh new Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) to provide the urgently needed liquidity to boost reserves, provide much needed foreign exchange resources to countries whose capacity to earn them continues to be severely constrained in the short to medium term.
 - b) Demanding for the consistency of developed countries' pledges including re-channeling SDR initiative (i.e. Resilience Sustainable Trust/RST and Poverty Reduction and Growth Trust/PRGT) without undue burden such as conditionality requirements.

Business and Human Rights (BHR)



Context

The protection of human rights and worker rights by businesses and companies is a critical issue in the G20 policy discussion on economy and finance and has a significant role in achieving a sustainable global economy. Businesses are powerful actors in the world and their actions can have a direct impact on the human rights of millions of workers across global supply chains, particularly impacting labor rights (including rights of migrant and immigrant workers). Businesses can also adversely impact communities, indigenous peoples and consumers infringing environmental rights, and socioeconomic rights such as right to livelihood, right to a decent wage, right to decent working conditions, the right to health, etc.

The G20 is uniquely positioned to steer the international community towards strengthened national and international policies regarding business and human rights (BHR) and ensure the issue receives the urgent attention it needs. In the past, the G20 has recognized and acted on this role by encouraging enforcement of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) 2011. In 2017, in the Hamburg G20 Leaders' Declaration, the G20 endorsed the UNGPs, supported plans to develop National Action Plans on Business and Human Rights (NAPs), and called for stronger human rights due diligence by companies. In 2015, through paragraph 67 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, the G20 provided a framework for businesses to respect human rights in their operations and supply and value chains and include principles for governments to follow, to ensure that businesses respect human rights within their borders and beyond.

BHR is relevant to a range of issues in the G20 policy discussion on economy and finance, including but not limited to labor rights, sustainable finance, infrastructure development, and trade and investment. Therefore, it is essential for the G20 governments to ensure that businesses are held accountable for their impacts on human rights, and to promote policies that protect the rights and well-being of workers along the entire value chain, communities, and other stakeholders affected by business activities.

Policy Recommendations for G20

The undersigned CSOs urge the G20 governments to take actions in the following key areas, in order to promote corporate accountability of corporations, including national, transnational and multinational companies:

1. Implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights:

- The member countries of G20 should institutionalize the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGP), which under its Pillar 2 provide a framework for companies to respect human rights and avoid causing or contributing to human rights abuses. Member countries should ensure observance of responsible business conduct based on the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises, which provide recommendations for companies on how to operate in a responsible manner in areas such as human rights, labor rights, climate justice and decarbonization, environmental and biodiversity protection, and anti-corruption.
- G20 countries should develop, enact, and periodically update their national action plans on business and human rights (NAPs), which can serve as a roadmap for implementing the UN Guiding Principles at the country level.
- The G20 countries should adopt and enforce mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence legislation for companies, in accordance with the UNGP and the OECD Guidelines for MNCs, which involves identifying, preventing, mitigating, and accounting for how they address their adverse human rights impacts.
- The G20 countries should adopt legislations based on the UNGA resolution recognizing a clean, healthy, and sustainable environment as a universal human right (2022).

2 Promoting Responsible Business Conduct (RBC):

- The G20 member countries should encourage companies to engage in meaningful stakeholder engagement and consultation, which involves consulting with workers, communities, and other stakeholders who may be affected by their operations, such as consumers/customers. Wherever required, stakeholder engagement and consultation must uphold the right to Free, Prior, and Informed

Consent (FPIC) granted to Indigenous Peoples in all projects impacting their lands (also coastal areas and oceans for some) traditions, practices and cultural heritage.

- The G20 must also encourage implementation of the International Labor Standards on Equality of opportunity and treatment as provided by the ILO to ensure elimination of discrimination in work.
- The G20 should support the establishment of effective operational-level grievance mechanisms, which provide a means for individuals and communities to seek remedy when their human rights have been negatively impacted by business activities.
- The G20 member countries should encourage and adopt a multilateral agreement to ensure equal treatment and improved protections for cross-border migrant workers.
- The G20 member states should prioritize the protection of human rights in trade and investment agreements, including by including binding provisions that require businesses to respect human rights and ensuring that trade and investment do not undermine human rights, labor, climate and environmental standards.
- Micro, small or medium enterprises (MSMEs) must also follow the aforementioned international standards and adhere to BHR principles and should get support from their business partners, including larger companies.

3. Strengthening Corporate Justice and Accountability:

- The G20 should extend support to negotiations regarding the introduction of the UN Binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights.
- The G20 should encourage the development of national and international frameworks for corporate accountability, including mechanisms for holding companies accountable for human rights abuses committed by their subsidiaries, suppliers, and other business partners.
- The G20 should support and encourage companies to develop effective grievance mechanisms for workers and communities affected by business operations, including access to effective remedies for human rights abuses.
- The G20 should promote transparency in supply chains to identify and address labor abuses and ensure that businesses are held accountable for human rights violations in their operations and supply chains.
- The G20 should support efforts to increase transparency and disclosure by companies, including through mandatory reporting on their human rights impacts and the steps they are taking to address them.

4. Protecting and promoting labour rights, including migrants and children

- The G20 member governments should urgently ratify the UN Convention for Migrant Workers and Their Family Members.
- The G20 member states should adopt and enforce comprehensive labor laws that provide for the protection of all workers, regardless of their status, and ensure that these laws are effectively enforced in their territories.
- The G20 should promote the ratification and implementation of all international labor standards, including the International Labor Organization's eleven fundamental conventions, and ensure that these standards are effectively enforced and monitored at the national level.
- The G20 should work to eliminate all forms of forced labor, including child labor, modern slavery and human trafficking, and ensure that victims of forced labor have access to effective remedies.
- The G20 should take immediate and concrete action to eliminate child labour by addressing the root

causes of child labour, including poverty and lack of access to quality education. National Action Plans for the elimination of Child Labour should be formulated, as required for the signatories of the universally ratified ILO Convention on the Worst Forms of Child Labour (ILO No. 182), and as endorsed in the Durban Call to Action on the Elimination of Child Labor.

- The G20 member states should ensure that migrant workers are not subject to exploitation or abuse and have access to legal protections, including the right to association and collective bargaining and access to remedy for negative human rights and labor rights impacts.
- G20 should encourage national policies on universal social protection and universal health coverage to protect vulnerable workers and their families including migrant workers. s

References

UN Guiding Principles on Business & Human Rights (2011)

Paragraph 67 of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Private business activity, investment and innovation are major drivers of productivity, inclusive economic growth and job creation. We acknowledge the diversity of the private sector, ranging from micro-enterprises to cooperatives to multinationals. We call upon all businesses to apply their creativity and innovation to solving sustainable development challenges. We will foster a dynamic and well-functioning business sector, while protecting labour rights and environmental and health standards in accordance with relevant international standards and agreements and other ongoing initiatives in this regard, such as the Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the labour standards of the International Labour Organization, the Convention on the Rights of the Child and key multilateral environmental agreements, for parties to those agreements.

2017 Hamburg G20 Leaders' Declaration

Sustainable Global Supply Chains: Global Supply Chains can be an important source of job creation and balanced economic growth. However, challenges for achieving an inclusive, fair and sustainable globalisation remain. To achieve sustainable and inclusive supply chains, we commit to fostering the implementation of labour, social and environmental standards and human rights in line with internationally recognised frameworks, such as the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the ILO Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy. Those countries that adhere to the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises (OECD MNE Guidelines) commit to fostering them and welcome others to follow.

We will work towards establishing adequate policy frameworks in our countries such as national action plans on business and human rights and underline the responsibility of businesses to exercise due diligence. We will take immediate and effective measures to eliminate child labour by 2025, forced labour, human trafficking and all forms of modern slavery. We welcome the Vision Zero Fund for to prevent work-place related deaths and injuries and encourage enterprises and others to join.

We emphasise that fair and decent wages as well as social dialogue are other key components of sustainable and inclusive global supply chains. We support access to remedy and, where applicable, non-judicial grievance mechanisms, such as the National Contact Points for the OECD MNE Guidelines (NCPs). We will encourage multinational companies to conclude international framework agreements as appropriate. Recognising the ongoing work of the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI), we promote better access to financing, technology, and training facilities that help improve the capacity of micro, small and medium enterprises to integrate into sustainable and inclusive global supply chains.

Policy Pack on Inclusive Economic and Social Development



Context

Established in 1999 as an international forum of major advanced and emerging economies, the G20 has exerted considerable influence in shaping global finance and economics. Its importance became even more apparent following the 2008 global financial crisis, which originated in the United States and had far-reaching consequences for the global economy.

As the crisis spread and affected economies around the world, the G20 emerged as a key platform for leaders and policymakers to coordinate responses and seek collective solutions to the global financial turmoil. However, in the face of subsequent crises and challenges, such as the euro area debt crisis or trade tensions between major economies, national interest-driven approaches have at times undermined collective efforts to find comprehensive solutions.

The G20's Economic and Social Development agenda comprises 13 thematic areas, which are addressed by working groups under the G20 Sherpa Track and 15 G20 Ministers' Meetings. The Sherpa and Finance are complementary and mutually reinforcing as they often address common issues.

Nonetheless, it is crucial to acknowledge that certain vital economic and social concerns, including housing and food security, remain absent from the official G20 agenda.

G20 AGENDA AND WORKING BODIES IN 2023

SHERPA TRACK (13)	FINANCE TRACK (8)
1. Agriculture	1. (Financial) Framework WG (FWG)
2. Anti-corruption	2. International Financial Architecture (IFA) WG
3. Culture	3. Sustainable Finance WG (SFWG)
4. Digital Economy	4. Global Partnership for Financial Inclusions (GPFI) WG
5. Disaster Risk Reduction	5. Financial Sector Issues WG
6. Development	6. Infrastructure WG (IWG)
7. Education	7. International Taxation Agenda WG
8. Employment	8. Joint Finance and Health Task Force
9. Environment and Climate Sustainability	
10. Energy Transitions	
11. Health	
12. Trade and Investment	
13. Tourism	

List of the 15 G20 Ministers' Meetings in 2023

- 1) Agriculture Ministers Meeting
- 2) Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting
- 3) Culture Ministers Meeting
- 4) Development Ministers Meeting
- 5) Digital Economy Ministers Meeting
- 6) Education Ministers Meeting
- 7) Energy Ministers Meeting
- 8) Environment and Climate Sustainability Ministers Meeting
- 9) Financial Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBG) and Finance and Central Bank Deputies (FCBD) Meeting

- 10) Finance and Energy Deputy Ministers Meeting
- 11) Finance and Energy Ministers Meeting
- 12) Joint Health-Finance Ministers Meeting
- 13) Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting
- 14) Ministerial Meeting on Women Empowerment
- 15) Trade and Investment Ministers Meeting

G20 Sherpa Track's 13 Working Bodies and Agenda
Agriculture Working Group

The Agriculture Working Group was established in 2011 during the French G20 Presidency.

It focuses on issues related to food security, agricultural productivity, and sustainable agricultural practices. It aims to promote policies that enhance agricultural development, improve access to food, and address challenges faced by farmers and rural communities.

Anti-corruption Working Group

The Anti-corruption Working Group was established in 2010 during the Canadian G20 Presidency. It aims to combat corruption and promote transparency and accountability in both public and private sectors. It seeks to strengthen legal frameworks, improve asset recovery measures, and foster international cooperation in the fight against corruption.

Culture Working Group

The Culture Working Group was established in 2016 during the Chinese G20 Presidency.

It focuses on cultural exchanges and cooperation to enhance mutual understanding and cultural diversity among G20 member countries. It promotes policies that support cultural heritage preservation, creative industries, and cultural tourism.

Digital Economy Working Group

The Digital Economy Working Group was established in 2017 during the German G20 Presidency. It addresses issues related to the digital transformation of economies, including digital infrastructure, digital trade, data governance, and digital skills development. It aims to promote policies that harness the potential of the digital economy for inclusive and sustainable growth. Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group:

The Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group was established in 2017 during the German G20 Presidency. It focuses on disaster preparedness, response, and recovery measures to build resilience against natural and man-made disasters. It promotes policies that strengthen disaster risk reduction strategies and enhance cooperation in disaster management.

Development Working Group

The Development Working Group was established in 2010 during the South Korean G20 Presidency. It aims to address issues related to development cooperation, poverty reduction, and inclusive growth. It promotes policies that support sustainable development, improve infrastructure, and enhance the capacity of developing countries.

Education Working Group

The Education Working Group was established in 2020 during the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency. It focuses on issues related to education systems, skills development, and access to quality education. It aims to promote policies that enhance education opportunities and outcomes for all, including marginalized and vulnerable populations.

Employment Working Group

The Employment Working Group was established in 2010 during the Canadian G20 Presidency. It addresses issues related to employment creation, decent work, and labor market policies. It aims to promote policies that foster job growth, support workers' rights, and address challenges in the labor market.

Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group

The Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group was established in 2017 during the German G20 Presidency. It focuses on issues related to climate change, environmental protection, and sustainable development. It aims to promote policies that mitigate climate change, protect biodiversity, and advance sustainable practices.

Energy Transitions Working Group

The Energy Transitions Working Group was established in 2017 during the German G20 Presidency. It addresses issues related to energy security, access to clean energy, and energy transitions. It aims to promote policies that facilitate the shift to cleaner and more sustainable energy sources.

Health Working Group

The Health Working Group was established in 2017 during the German G20 Presidency.

It focuses on global health issues, including pandemic preparedness, healthcare systems, and access to essential health services. It aims to promote policies that strengthen health systems and enhance global health security.

Trade and Investment Working Group

The Trade and Investment Working Group was established in 2010 during the Canadian G20 Presidency. It addresses issues related to international trade, investment facilitation, and trade policies. It aims to promote policies that foster open, inclusive, and rules-based trade and investment.

Tourism Working Group

The Tourism Working Group was established in 2020 during the Saudi Arabian G20 Presidency. It focuses on issues related to sustainable tourism development, tourism recovery, and resilience. It aims to promote policies that support the tourism sector, create jobs, and enhance cultural and economic exchange through tourism.

Policy Recommendations

1) Agriculture and Food

- We call upon the G20 leaders to take concrete action by developing national action plans to implement the Rome Declaration on Food Systems and the Global Action Agenda for the Future of Food, which were adopted during the UN Food Systems Summit in 2021. By aligning their policies and strategies with these international frameworks, the G20 countries can collectively work towards achieving more sustainable, inclusive, and resilient food systems.
- We urge the G20 leaders to endorse and actively work towards the early adoption of the Treaty on the Rights of Peasants and Other People Working in Rural Areas (UNDROP) at the UN General Assembly. By supporting this treaty, the G20 can advance the rights of rural communities and contribute to more equitable and just food systems.
- The G20 countries should champion food sovereignty and security in accordance with the recommendations from the UN Special Rapporteurs on the Right to Food and the Rights of Peasants. Embracing policies that prioritize the well-being and empowerment of rural communities, smallholders, and workers can enhance global efforts to eradicate hunger and promote food justice.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to prioritize investment in smallholder farmers, recognizing their vital role in food production, particularly in developing countries. Enhancing smallholders' access to

resources, technology, and markets can boost their productivity and income, ultimately contributing to improved food security and livelihoods.

- The G20 should lead by example in promoting the adoption of climate-resilient farming practices. By investing in research and technology that enhances agricultural resilience to climate change and extreme weather events, the G20 can mitigate the impacts of climate variability on food production and ensure long-term food security.

2) Anti-corruption

1. We call upon the G20 governments to ratify, if they have not done so already, the UN Convention against Corruption (UNCAC) and OECD Anti-bribery Convention. Furthermore, the G20 should develop and implement relevant policies and measures in accordance with these conventions to strengthen the fight against corruption at the national and international levels.
2. The G20 should prioritize fostering greater international cooperation among member countries and beyond to effectively address cross-border corruption. Enhanced information sharing and collaboration in investigations can be instrumental in combatting transnational corruption cases that involve multiple jurisdictions.
3. We urge the G20 to take steps to strengthen the independence and effectiveness of anti-corruption agencies within their respective countries. Promoting peer reviews and reporting mechanisms, such as the Supreme Audit Institution (SAI) 20/20, can help hold national governments accountable for their actions and ensure transparency in the fight against corruption.
4. The G20 should be at the forefront of advocating for greater corporate transparency. Encouraging the disclosure of beneficial ownership information by companies can help prevent the misuse of corporate structures for illicit activities and promote accountability in the private sector.
5. The G20 must prioritize the adoption of robust whistleblower protection laws and mechanisms. By empowering individuals to report corruption without fear of retaliation, whistleblowers play a crucial role in exposing corrupt practices and fostering a culture of accountability.
6. The G20 should strengthen measures to combat financial crimes, including the recovery of stolen assets. Enhanced cooperation among financial intelligence units can aid in tracking illicit financial flows and preventing the misuse of the global financial system for corrupt purposes.

3) Culture

1. We call upon the G20 leaders to ratify the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity as a way to promote cultural diversity and International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR) and take action to preserve and promote indigenous culture and knowledge
2. We call upon the G20 leaders to promote the global citizenship education of the SDG Target 4.7 which includes an education about culture and cultural diversity which is essential for the promotion of a culture of peace and human rights,
3. We urge the G20 leaders to take decisive action in promoting cultural diversity and preserving indigenous culture and knowledge. One crucial step towards this is ratifying the UNESCO Convention on Cultural Diversity, which emphasizes the importance of protecting and promoting cultural expressions worldwide. Additionally, we call upon the G20 leaders to endorse and uphold the principles of the International Covenant on Economic, Social, and Cultural Rights (ICESCR), which recognizes the right of everyone to take part in cultural life and enjoy the benefits of scientific progress and its applications.
4. Furthermore, we emphasize the significance of global citizenship education, specifically SDG Target 4.7, which encompasses education about culture and cultural diversity. By integrating such education into curricula, we can foster a culture of peace, human rights, and mutual respect among diverse communities. Empowering individuals with an understanding of different cultures contributes to building more inclusive societies, promoting social cohesion, and combating discrimination and intolerance.

5. As we strive for a world that embraces its rich cultural tapestry, the G20 leaders must recognize the value of preserving indigenous cultures and traditional knowledge. These invaluable contributions to humanity's heritage must be safeguarded, celebrated, and respected. By committing to these principles, the G20 can play a leading role in promoting cultural diversity and shaping a brighter, more inclusive future for all.

4) Digital Economy

1. We call upon the G20 leaders to prioritize the establishment of a human- rights compliant framework that safeguards privacy, personal data, and the right to information. Furthermore, we urge the adoption of a moratorium on the transfer of surveillance technology, ensuring protection for both workers and users.
2. We urge the G20 leaders to implement comprehensive policy measures to protect the rights of workers, children, youth, and women in the digital industries and services. These measures should prioritize fair labor practices, safety, and equal opportunities for all individuals in the digital workforce.
3. We call upon the G20 leaders to take collective action in bridging the digital divide by providing Official Development Assistance (ODA) to developing countries. Such support will enhance access to digital infrastructure, technology, and education, ensuring equitable opportunities for all nations.
4. We strongly support the UN initiative aimed at developing regulatory mechanisms for Artificial Intelligence (AI). To ensure responsible AI development, we urge the G20 leaders to endorse a moratorium on AI advancement until adequate regulatory frameworks are established. This approach will foster ethical and accountable AI applications that benefit society as a whole.

5) Disaster Risk Reduction

1. We call upon the G20 leaders to prioritize strengthening coordination among member countries, international organizations, and regional bodies involved in disaster management, in alignment with the Sendai Framework for Disaster
2. Risk Reduction (2015-2030). By integrating disaster risk reduction measures into various sectors and policies, the G20 can contribute to building a more disaster- resilient global community and promote sustainable development in the face of natural hazards.
3. The G20 should prioritize providing robust support for capacity building efforts in vulnerable and developing countries, particularly in regions prone to frequent natural disasters. Such assistance can empower these countries to develop and implement effective disaster risk reduction and response strategies, bolstering their resilience and ability to mitigate the impact of disasters.
4. All G20 countries must bring more resources to the DRR and commit and develop capacity for community based DRR preparedness where communities are the primary beneficiaries.

6) Development / Official Development Assistance (ODA):

We call upon the G20 leaders to take comprehensive actions to support sustainable development efforts and accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and climate goals:

1. The G20 should initiate the International Conference on Financing for Sustainable Development to review the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and develop strategies for sustainable development and climate mitigation and adaptation.
2. The developed countries in G20 should honor commitments to allocate 0.7% of GNI as ODA to developing countries and work towards gradually increasing contributions to support sustainable development. If all OECD DAC countries fulfill that promise, more than USD 200 billions can be mobilized every year. This gap if fulfilled can eradicate extreme poverty many times over.
3. The G20 should enhance the effectiveness of ODA by aligning it with recipient countries' priorities, streamlining aid delivery, reducing transaction costs, and strengthening local ownership and capacity building.

4. The G20 should concretely increase climate finance to help developing countries transition to low-carbon and climate-resilient economies, accelerating progress towards global climate goals.
5. The G20 should allocate a significant portion of development cooperation / ODA to gender-responsive projects and initiatives that promote women's empowerment and gender equality.
6. Moreover, the G20 should take urgent actions through the ODA to address the shrinking and closing civic space issues, enabling an environment where civil society organizations can operate freely and effectively in promoting sustainable development.
7. The G20 should advocate for greater transparency and accountability in the management of ODA, involving civil society organizations and local communities in monitoring processes to prevent corruption.
8. In addition, the developed countries of the G20 should prioritize allocating 0.15 to 0.20 per cent of ODA/GNI to least developed countries, supporting the implementation of the Doha Programme of Action from the 5th LDC Conference in March 2023.
9. The G20 should adopt measures to improve the effectiveness of ODA, such as alignment with national development strategies and result-based approaches as highlighted in the AAAA and Busan Global Partnership, to further enhance development outcomes.
10. Transparency and accountability in the management of ODA among G20 countries should be promoted through open data initiatives and disclosure of aid flows, with involvement from civil society organizations and local communities in monitoring processes.
11. We also call out the OECD DAC countries against diverting the ODA for questionable purposes like security, humanitarian assistance, border management, migrants management, education of students from the global south etc. We should also call out countries who are reducing ODA at this time of global crisis.

7) Labour and Employment

1. We call upon the G20 leaders to strengthen social protection mechanisms, providing a robust safety net for workers and their families, particularly during times of economic hardship or crises. Investing in social protection policies can ensure that vulnerable populations have access to essential support and services.
2. We urge the G20 leaders to collaborate closely with the International Labour Organization (ILO) and actively implement the Decent Work Agenda. By doing so, the G20 can promote social protection for all, facilitate constructive social dialogue among workers, employers, and governments, and safeguard fundamental labor rights globally.
3. We call upon the G20 leaders to adopt and enforce policies that actively promote gender equality in the workplace. This includes taking measures to close the gender pay gap, create equal opportunities for women, and eliminate gender-based discrimination to create a more inclusive and diverse workforce.
4. We urge the G20 leaders to adopt responsible technology and automation policies that prioritize reskilling and upskilling workers. Emphasizing the development of new skills will enable workers to adapt to technological advancements and leverage innovation for job creation and economic growth.
5. Post COVID highlighted the plight of migrant workers. There is an urgent need for national comprehensive policies for migrant workers which the G20 countries should uniformly adopt and develop a comprehensive framework for the same.
6. We call upon G 20 countries for a firm commitment on Social Security to be extended to all workers, ensure living wages, declare criminalisation of wage theft, work towards compensation to all workers affected by climate change, Creation of green jobs, Creation of decent jobs to address the issues of unemployment, ensure safe and accident free work spaces, Protect the right to association and unionization, Do away with anti-worker laws, codes and policies and finally recognising invisible women workers.

8) Energy Transitions

1. The G20 must take decisive action to phase out fossil fuel subsidies in an equitable and pro-poor manner, setting a clear timeline for completion no later than 2025. The G20 Energy Sustainability Working Group should develop a comprehensive policy framework that ensures a just and equitable transition away from the current fossil-fuel based energy system while safeguarding the rights and well-being of workers and communities affected by this transition.
2. The G20 must cease the pursuit and implementation of false solutions that claim to address environmental challenges but may exacerbate existing issues. These false solutions include carbon trading, market-based approaches to forests, soil, and water, large-scale geo-engineering and techno-fixes, nuclear energy, mega hydro dams, agro-fuels, large tree plantations, biomass energy, waste incineration, and clean coal. Instead, the focus should be on genuine and sustainable solutions that prioritize environmental integrity, social equity, and human rights.

9) Health

1. We call upon the G20 leaders to demonstrate global leadership by establishing a comprehensive and equitable roadmap for vaccine access. This should include supporting a complete TRIPS waiver covering diagnostic tests, treatments, and COVID-19 vaccines, and endorsing the adoption of the pandemic treaty proposed by the World Health Organization (WHO). Ensuring widespread access to vaccines and medical technologies is essential to combatting the pandemic effectively.
2. The G20 should actively engage in improving and strengthening global health governance, particularly the International Health Regulations (IHR). By addressing the challenges posed by the pandemic and other health emergencies, the G20 can enhance global health security and facilitate better coordination in responding to crises.
3. The G20 should recognize the critical role of the World Health Organization as the primary coordinating entity for global health efforts. This entails providing sustainable financing to the WHO and fostering integration and convergence across different health initiatives at both global and regional levels. Amplifying resources to organizations such as GAVI, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis, and Malaria, UNAIDS, UNITAID, FINDx, CEPI, and the Global Financing Facility is essential to effectively respond to COVID-19 and strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response. It is imperative that G7 commitments align with WHO conventions, agreements, or other international instruments on PPPR, avoiding the development of separate structures or parallel pathways.
4. The G20 countries should make Universal Health Coverage (UHC) a priority and invest more in its realization, particularly in low and middle-income countries, based on the principles of primary health care (PHC). Strengthening PHC systems will ensure that essential health services are accessible, affordable, and of high quality, benefiting communities worldwide.
5. The G20 should increase investments in equitable, human rights-based, life-cycle, and person-centered health approaches. Integrating healthy aging and dementia care, preventive measures, medicines, and psychosocial services into PHC can significantly improve the health and well-being of populations, especially vulnerable groups.
6. The G20 countries must prioritize the implementation of recommendations on health from international bodies such as the Committee on the Elimination of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW) and the Committee on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (CESCR), as well as the UN Special Rapporteur on the Right to Health. Upholding these recommendations can advance health equity and human rights in the global health agenda.
7. We call on the G20 to waive patents on medical technologies, act to end monopoly of big pharmaceutical companies on COVID-19 vaccine, and support technology transfer. The G20 governments must share their vaccine technology and know-how with the WHO's COVID Technology Access Pool. This collaboration will facilitate faster and more cost-effective global vaccination efforts.
8. As the "zero draft" of the Pandemic Treaty is currently in discussion at the World Health Organization (WHO) and seeks to address the issues of pandemic preparedness and response, the G20 leaders

should push for an accord that puts people's lives first over pharmaceutical profits. Provisions on equal access to pandemic countermeasures and sharing of technology should not be compromised in the treaty as it again makes the fight against future pandemic weaker giving rise to extreme forms of poverty and inequalities.

9. The draft treaty proposes that critical public health interventions be based on "strengthening existing and developing innovative multilateral mechanisms that promote and incentivize relevant transfer of technology and know-how for production of pandemic-related products, on mutually agreed terms, to capable manufacturers, particularly in developing countries" [Article 7(2)]. Therefore, the treaty is based on "best endeavour" language emphasising on the willingness of pharmaceutical companies to engage in voluntary mechanisms of technology transfer. These have repeatedly proved to be insufficient during the current and previous epidemics and pandemics. Therefore, the G20 governments must agree to a treaty that requires governments to invest in Research and Development (R&D) and manufacturing capacities and condition the public funding on sharing technology, knowledge and intellectual property with developers and manufacturers in the Global South.
10. Governments, including the G20, and international bodies should work towards a comprehensive pandemic preparedness plan that includes strengthening healthcare systems, early warning systems, and global cooperation mechanisms. This will help prevent future health crises and ensure a prompt response when they occur.
11. Breaking monopolies and promoting generic competition is a proven way to boost vaccine and medicine production while lowering prices. The G20 country governments must support the fastest and most cost-effective path to global vaccination by sharing vaccine technology and know-how with the WHO's COVID Technology Access Pool (C-TAP).

10) Tourism

1. We strongly urge the G20 leaders to proactively develop comprehensive strategies to tackle issues like unsustainable overtourism. This can be achieved by incorporating sustainability education into the training and certification programs for tourism operators. Additionally, educational campaigns should be devised to raise awareness among tourists about responsible travel practices, ensuring that tourism remains a force for positive impact on destinations and local communities.
2. Furthermore, we call upon the G20 leaders to prioritize the integration of cultural and heritage education into school curricula and community programs. By promoting a sense of cultural identity and heritage preservation among local communities, the G20 can contribute to the preservation and celebration of diverse cultures and traditions, fostering greater appreciation and respect for cultural heritage.

11) Trade and Investment

1. We call upon the G20 leaders to take a leading role in promoting just and inclusive trade policies by encouraging member countries to resist protectionism and refrain from imposing trade barriers. This commitment will ensure that global trade remains fair, transparent, and predictable, fostering economic growth and prosperity for all.
2. The G20 should actively promote sustainable and resilient supply chains that prioritize environmental, social, and governance (ESG) factors. By encouraging companies to adopt responsible sourcing practices, the G20 can support sustainable production and consumption patterns while creating opportunities for capacity-building in developing countries to participate in global value chains.
3. G20 countries must work together to re-invent the World Trade Organization (WTO) as a multilateral forum that advocates for fair, just, sustainable, and inclusive trade rules. Aligning with human rights, the Paris Agreement on climate change, just transition principles, and the Leave No One Behind commitment, the WTO can become a driving force for promoting sustainable development and social progress.
4. G20 countries should prioritize renegotiating the current agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) waiver and actively engage in the negotiation of an effective

International Pandemic Treaty. These efforts will enable lower-income countries to produce and procure vaccines they require and prepare for future pandemics, fostering global health security and equitable access to life-saving technologies.

5. We urge G20 countries to commit to terminating international investment agreements that allow investors to sue states in private arbitration tribunals. Investor-state lawsuits pose threats to human rights, energy transitions, and public interests, such as health and education. By ending these agreements, G20 countries can prioritize the protection of public policy and the public good over private interests.

12) Corporate Accountability and Business and Human Rights

We urge the G20 to take actions in the following key areas in order to promote corporate justice and accountability especially for TNCs and MNCs,

1. The G20 countries must actively promote the implementation of the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights by adopting national action plans and enforcing mandatory human rights and environmental due diligence. These measures will hold businesses accountable for their impacts on human rights and the environment.
2. All G20 countries that have not yet done so should ratify and implement the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises to ensure responsible business conduct through independent and effective National Contact Point.
3. The G20 should wholeheartedly support the negotiations on the UN binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights, demonstrating a commitment to establishing robust mechanisms for addressing corporate human rights abuses.
4. G20 governments should prioritize the ratification of international human rights treaties, with particular attention to the UN Convention for Migrant Workers and Their Family Members, to safeguard the rights and dignity of migrant workers.
5. The G20 governments should actively promote the ratification and implementation of all international labor standards, including the International Labor Organization's (ILOs) eleven fundamental conventions, while ensuring effective enforcement and monitoring at the national level.
6. To protect vulnerable workers and their families, including migrant workers, the G20 governments should prioritize the promotion of universal social protection and universal health coverage, ensuring access to essential services and support systems.
7. The G20 governments should prioritize the ratification of international environmental treaties, underlining their commitment to address global environmental challenges collectively and sustainably.

Education

Background

Challenges faced by the education sector

P-20 Policy Recommendations on Education

Background

Education has been a focus within the G20, reflecting its importance in promoting human development, economic progress, and global cooperation. It has been recognized as a driver of human development, economic progress and inclusive and sustainable growth and addressing a range of global challenges. This year's G20 Education Working Group has identified four priority themes including ensuring foundational literacy and numeracy, leveraging digital technology, strengthening the relevance and linkages of education with the future of work, and promoting collaboration between higher education and research, development, and innovation within and across national boundaries². It also builds upon the outcomes of the UN 2022 Transforming Education Summit.³

The P-20 feels that this year's agenda should focus more on addressing educational inequalities by building stronger, adequately funded public education systems that enable more equal opportunities for marginalized communities.

Challenges faced by the education sector

- 1. Governments are failing to respond to the damage caused to the education system by the pandemic:** It is estimated that children lost about 35% of a normal school year's worth of learning during the pandemic⁴. Prolonged school closures have exacerbated existing educational inequalities, triggered anxiety and depression among students and contributed to child hunger by disrupting school meals. School closures are expected to not only have an impact now but also hamper inter-generational social mobility⁵. While this impact is recognized, countries have not prioritized action to address this unprecedented damage to the lives of the world's young citizens.
- 2. Education remains underfunded.** More than two-thirds of all countries cut education's share during the pandemic⁶ and education budgets in low- and lower-middle-income countries have remained lower in 2022 than before COVID-19⁷. In 2021, on average, low—and middle-income countries spent 27.5% of their budgets on debt repayments, which is double the proportion spent on education⁸. There is a simultaneous stagnation of aid in donor country budgets⁹. This has affected the capacity of governments to address the harm done by the pandemic and to complete the Education 2030 SDG agenda.
- 3. Inadequate infrastructure and facilities to meet global targets and obligations for ensuring education.** At the start of the SDGs, ensuring universal school enrolment by 2030, required an estimated additional 69 million teachers.¹⁰ In 2023, it is estimated that the number of pre-primary educators in low-income and lower-middle countries needs to triple and double respectively if countries are to reach their SDG4 education benchmark targets; additionally, the number of primary school teachers needs to increase by nearly 50% in low-income countries¹¹. Other facilities like educational materials, infrastructure and facilities likewise need to be enhanced, with students in remote areas often having access to the poorest infrastructure.
- 4. This has hit the poorest and the most vulnerable hardest.** Development outcomes have been grossly unequal with familial wealth, gender, caste, race, and social status dictating destiny. Outside of the high-income countries in Europe and North America, only 18 of the poorest youth compared to 100 of the richest youth complete secondary school¹². In 40 countries, less than 10% of the poorest children completed secondary education;¹³ Segregated patterns of schooling where the rich attend private schools build segregated communities, driving a wedge between the haves and the have-nots, right at the start

of life; in contrast, a good education has considerable power to increase equality between women and men, boost opportunity for all and bring society together.

- 5. Technology has been adopted, but its adoption has not always been driven by an educational rationale.** The pandemic has contributed to the rise of e-learning. Thus, during COVID-induced school closures, UNESCO estimates that over 90% of education ministries carried out some form of distance learning response, with a potential reach of over 1 billion students globally; however, at least half a billion students worldwide (31%) could not be reached by remote learning, most being among the poorest (72%) and those living in rural areas (70%)¹⁴. While the use of technology can have benefits, systematic reviews of the past two decades find only small to positive effect of education technology on learning outcomes; indeed, technology use beyond a moderate threshold is associated with diminishing academic gains¹⁵.
- 6.** Education systems need to respond to new global threats including climate change¹⁶, health crises including pandemics and work to contribute to addressing global challenges including sustainable development.
- 7.** While a range of political commitments and agreements were made in education in 2022-23, these need a stronger political push for their implementation, backed by financial resources.

P-20 Policy Recommendations on Education

CSOs emphasize the need for the G-20 to ensure alignment of education policies with SDG 4 targets, promote social justice, equality, and inclusion in education systems to achieve the SDG agenda and ensure universal access to equitable and inclusive education.

- 1. Increase Public Investment in Education:** G20 leaders must make an explicit reference to prioritizing, protecting, and increasing education financing (both Official Development Assistance and domestic budgets) within the Leaders' Declaration, including ensuring global funds and initiatives are fully funded. They must prioritize and increase public investment in education, aiming to meet the financing requirements outlined in the Education 2030 SDG 4 Framework. This includes i) meeting the internationally agreed target of allocating at least 4-6% GDP or 15-20% of their national budgets to education, ii) ensuring equitable distribution of resources, with a focus on addressing the needs of marginalized and disadvantaged communities, iii) protect education from budget cuts during times of crisis and emergency and ensure that resources are allocated equitably and effectively.
- 2.** Recognizing the impact of the historic disruption of the education system caused by the pandemic, ensure all countries have fully resourced recovery plans to cover lost ground, ensure educational systems are more resilient and address the needs of vulnerable groups. G-20 leaders must support transformative action to preserve the right to education including the implementation of the Call of Action and the national statements of commitment made¹⁷ as part of the Transformative Education Summit.
- 3. Ensure educational equity to achieve social justice and equality:** We recommend policies and interventions that ensure equality of opportunity for all learners. This entails specific policies that promote access to education of the highest standards for marginalized groups, provide targeted support and promote inclusive learning environments, particularly for girls, children with disabilities, ethnic minorities, indigenous communities, and those in poverty. This involves removing barriers to access, providing scholarships and financial support, and promoting inclusive and culturally responsive education.
- 4. Ensure Universal High-Quality Education for all:** All students must be taught by professionally trained, qualified, and motivated teachers in schools offering a quality environment and empowered by quality tools. Education must foster critical thinking, creativity, and lifelong learning skills. Curricula, teacher training and professional development, and innovative and inclusive pedagogical approaches must be supportive of this mission. CSOs also advocate for the integration of human rights education and global citizenship education to promote social justice and equality.

2 https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/document/G20-Education-WG-ODCS-22.pdf

3 <https://www.un.org/en/transforming-education-summit>

4 <https://edition.cnn.com/2023/01/30/health/covid-learning-loss-study-wellness/index.html>

5 <https://blogs.worldbank.org/developmenttalk/school-closures-and-longer-term-implications-covid-19-inter-generational-mobility>

6 <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/articles/covid-19-two-thirds-poorer-countries-are-cutting-their-education-budgets-time-when-they-can-least>

7 <https://www.unesco.org/gem-report/en/articles/financing-education-stagnant-or-declining-despite-chronic-learning-needs-post-covid-19>

8 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/2022-commitment-reducing-inequality-cri-index>

9 <https://www.education-progress.org/en/articles/finance-aid>

10 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000246124>

11 <https://www.unesco.org/en/articles/nearly-us100-billion-finance-gap-countries-reach-their-education-targets>

12 <https://transformingeducationsummit.sdg4education2030.org/AT1DiscussionPaper>

13 <https://www.oxfam.org/en/research/2022-commitment-reducing-inequality-cri-index>

14 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385723>

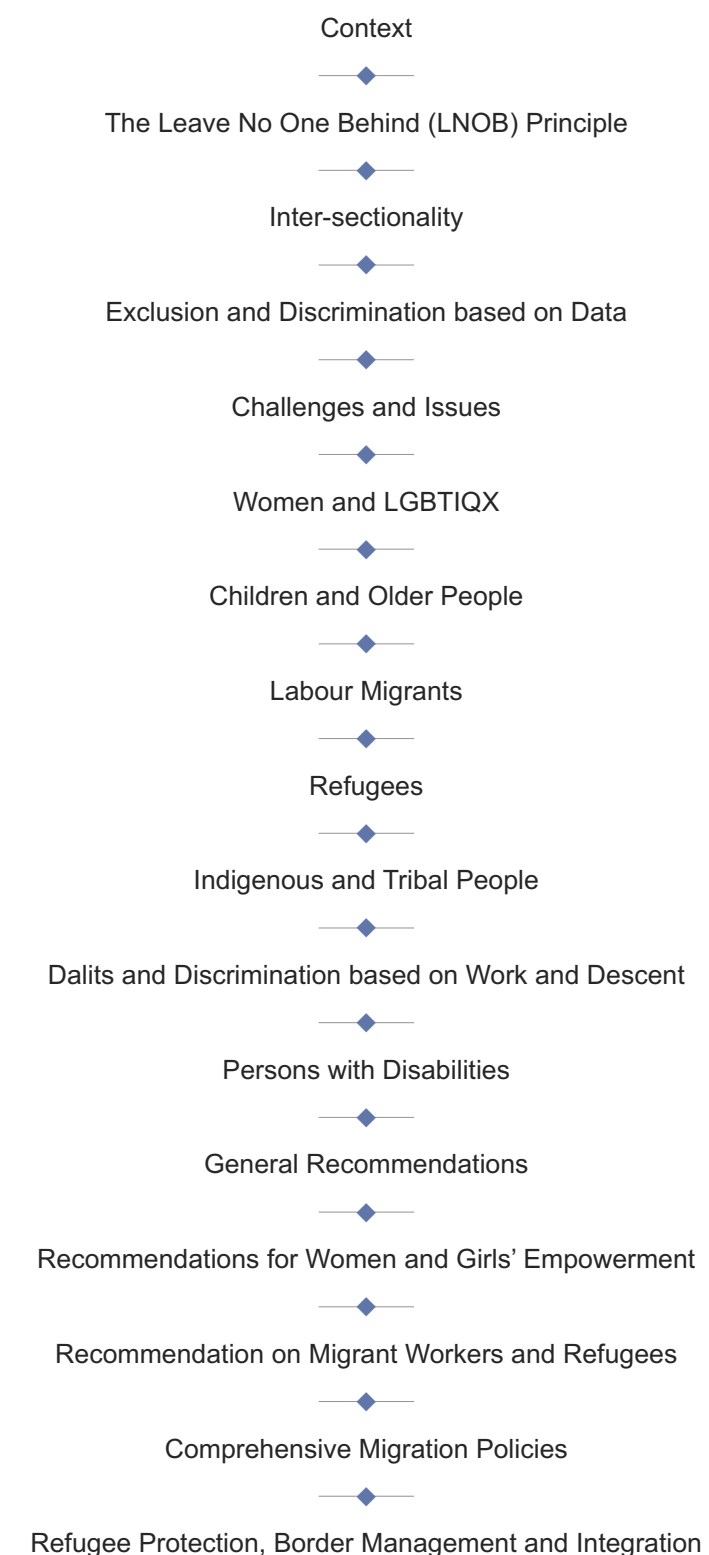
15 <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000385723>

16 <https://www.un.org/en/climatechange/climate-solutions/education-key-addressing-climate-change>

17 <https://transformingeducationsummit.sdg4education2030.org/TESFollowUp>

5. **Ensure Gender Equality in Education:** Educational policies and initiatives must address gender-based discrimination and promote girls' education, including providing safe learning environments, combating gender stereotypes, and ensuring access to quality education for girls and women at all levels.
6. **Deliver Inclusive Education for Persons with Disabilities:** We recommend policies that ensure accessible infrastructure, assistive technologies, trained teachers, and inclusive curriculum design. CSOs also call for the removal of barriers and discrimination in educational settings to promote equal educational opportunities for persons with disabilities.
7. **Mother Tongue based Multilingual Education and Cultural Diversity:** CSOs advocate for educational policies that recognize, value, and celebrate linguistic and cultural diversity and promote social cohesion. We recommend promoting multilingual education, protecting indigenous languages, and incorporating cultural knowledge and heritage into curricula.
8. Enhance Data Collection, Monitoring, and Accountability mechanisms to realize the right to education and ensure progress towards SDG 4 targets. We recommend that G20 countries invest in robust data systems, disaggregate data by various dimensions, and involve CSOs in data collection and monitoring processes. This transparency and accountability can help identify gaps, track progress, and inform evidence-based policy-making.
9. Develop digital infrastructure but remain cognizant of the risks of creating new digital divides. Governments should (i) develop digital connectivity infrastructure and deliver offline and online learning facilities for equal access to education, (ii) provide free and open access to digital and other relevant technologies, tools, and materials; and (iii) build the capacity of teachers, learners, parents/caregivers, to effectively use devices and mitigate the risks associated with using online education tools. We emphasize the need to ensure learners' data privacy, protection and security, prevent discrimination, gender-based harassment, cyberbullying, counter misinformation and disinformation and improve inclusivity and ethical practices in the use of digital technology in education. To help improve learning, digital technology should never be seen as a substitute but a complement to face-to-face interaction with teachers.
10. G-20 Governments need to commit to the implementation of existing human rights obligation to the right to education and the range of recent international agreements with a focus on education including, among others, the outcomes of the Transforming Education Summit,¹⁸ the Tashkent Declaration and Commitment to Action for Transforming Early Childhood Education,¹⁹ the Marrakech Framework for Action with focus on adult learning and education.²⁰
11. **Global citizenship education for peace and human rights:** To address the pressing issues of violent extremism, xenophobia, racism, and religious fundamentalism, we urge the G20 leaders to prioritize the integration and mainstreaming of global citizenship education in the whole education systems in line with SDG Target 4.7. This educational approach fosters a culture of peace and human rights, nurturing informed and responsible global citizens.

Social and Political Inclusion – Leave No One Behind



¹⁸ <https://www.unesco.org/en/2022-transforming-education-summit>

¹⁹ <https://unesdoc.unesco.org/ark:/48223/pf0000384045>

²⁰ <https://www.uil.unesco.org/en/marrakech-framework-action>

Context

Exclusion is often superficially summarised as 'social' exclusion; in reality it manifests itself as economic, political, environmental, as well as cultural and emotional exclusion. Exclusion and marginalisation occur in every society, but manifest themselves in different ways. Exclusion can affect small populations, such as the Burakumin in Japan or the 160 million Dalit population in India. Commonly agreed vectors of exclusion or inclusion were first identified in the UDHR—and are now commonly listed as "racial, ethnic, linguistic, caste, religious and other cultural identities, as well as age, gender, sexuality, disability, poverty, unemployment, socio-economic conditions and place of residence" (Koehler 2023). (Koehler 2023 forthcoming).

Because of an ascribed identity and/or the situations they face, individuals and communities are pushed into economic distress, politically disenfranchised, ecologically threatened and socially ostracised. This situation is often inherited from one generation to the next. Economically, there is exclusion from decent work or productive assets, from markets and marketplaces, from land and other natural resources. They are pushed into menial and extremely poorly paid informal employment. Politically, there is exclusion from consultation, from voting or standing for election, from fair media coverage and legal representation. Ecologically, marginalised people are relegated to places that are environmentally degraded, pose health hazards, or become uninhabitable due to climate disasters. Socially, there is interpersonal discrimination, hatred and violence, and no or limited access to social goods and services such as health, education, water and sanitation, energy, internet resources and, for some forms of exclusion, even access to religious sites. Cultural and social norms infiltrate political and administrative mechanisms and shape the attitudes and responses of duty bearers towards excluded groups, undermining mandated roles and responsibilities or special measures to address exclusion and promote inclusion. On the other hand, they often face greater consequences and punitive measures, as evidenced by prison data in countries where the number of members of excluded communities exceeds their proportion of the population²¹.

The Leave No One Behind (LNOB) Principle

The Leave No One Behind (LNOB) principle in the UN SDGs provides a new impetus and revised framework for reaching the furthest behind first, inclusive development, protection, participation and promotion of the rights of marginalised and vulnerable populations. As noted above, excluded communities are present in every society—whether in small or large numbers, visible at the local or national level. National statistics have limited data on them, much less an adequate understanding of the causal factors or impact. Duty bearers' social attitudes may hinder them from fulfilling their mandated responsibilities.

However, these communities continue to struggle and survive against many challenges. Many have developed their own social and community institutions to articulate their demands. Civil society organisations and social movements in countries have strong links to their issues at local, national and global levels. Multilateral institutions and the private sector have an important role to play in dismantling discriminatory practices and taking proactive measures to promote inclusion. Concerted action by the various stakeholders, with communities at the heart of all strategies that affect them, is essential to implement the mandated provisions and fulfil the promise of "leaving no one behind".

Inter-sectionality

Both acute and entrenched drivers of social exclusion are interlinked, intersecting, overlapping and compounding, making them difficult to overcome. Crenshaw (2017) has pointed this out powerfully, and it is now common knowledge in international analyses of exclusion (UNRISD 2022). Gender, caste, age and ability are factors that cut across all other factors. Marginalised communities are not homogeneous and can replicate structures of exclusion within themselves, further exacerbating the situation of communities within them. As a result of all these factors, global income poverty and hunger have increased over the past three years, with 700 million people worldwide facing acute income poverty—generally those trapped in poverty are from socially and politically excluded groups.

Government policies can promote or exacerbate forms of exclusion through discriminatory policies or lack of oversight. The private sector can be discriminatory in its employment practices, either overtly or by default. In recent decades, the physical persecution and murder of human rights defenders, trade unionists or climate

21 <https://indianexpress.com/article/india/ncrb-data-higher-share-of-dalits-tribals-muslims-in-prison-than-numbers-outside-6575446/>
- Share of detainees among Dalits, Tribals and Muslims are higher than their population proportion, Muslims being almost double their population proportion in 2019

activists has become widespread, taking exclusion to an unprecedented level of violence (OHCHR no year): 400 human rights defenders killed in 2022 (Common Dreams 2023).

Exclusion and Discrimination based on Data

As of today, economic and social exclusion remains a significant challenge in the global finance and economy. Despite progress in some areas, inequalities persist, and certain vulnerable groups continue to face exclusion from economic opportunities and social resources.

- ❑ The World Inequality Database shows that the top 1% of the global population holds more than 45% of the world's wealth, while the bottom 50% holds less than 2% of the wealth. This stark income inequality reflects the concentration of resources and opportunities among a small elite, leaving many behind.
- ❑ According to the World Bank, the number of people living in extreme poverty (on less than \$1.90 a day) is estimated as 689 million in 2022 and almost of a half of them are in South Asia including India with 263 mil. (38%). The COVID-19 pandemic has had a significant impact on poverty, pushing an estimated 70 million people into extreme poverty in 2020. Vulnerable populations, such as indigenous communities and those living in conflict-affected areas, are still disproportionately affected.
- ❑ Women continue to earn less than men for similar work. The global gender pay gap was estimated to be 68.6% in 2023, according to the World Economic Forum's Global Gender Gap Report 2023. The gender pay gap is widest in the Middle East and North Africa.
- ❑ The International Labour Organization (ILO) reports that the global youth unemployment rate was 13.6% in 2020. Young people often face challenges in accessing decent work and are more likely to be in informal and precarious employment.
- ❑ The World Bank estimates that in 2023, about 1.3 billion people live with disabilities, and they face higher rates of unemployment and limited access to education and healthcare. This represents 16% of the world's population, or 1 in 6 people.
- ❑ The International Organization for Migration (IOM) reports that there were over 281 million international migrants in 2022, and two-thirds of them were labor migrants. Migrant workers often face discrimination, exploitation, and limited social protection.
- ❑ The United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR) estimates that there were 89.3 million forcibly displaced persons worldwide in 2022. This includes 26.6 million refugees, 4.6 million asylum seekers, and 57.5 million internally displaced people.
- ❑ The International Labour Organization (ILO) estimates that there are 24.9 million victims of human trafficking worldwide. The majority of victims of human trafficking are women and girls and the most common forms of human trafficking are sexual exploitation and forced labor.
- ❑ Indigenous communities often experience marginalization and limited access to economic opportunities, with the World Bank estimating that they make up 5% of the global population but 15% of those living in poverty.
- ❑ The number of people aged 65 years and older is projected to reach 727 million or 10.7% of the world's population, and it is expected to increase to 1.5 billion (16.7%) by 2025 Globally, an estimated 1.2 billion older persons live in poverty (less than \$1.90 a day) and a majority of them are in sub-Saharan Africa.
- ❑ The number of children under the age of 18 worldwide in 2022 is estimated to be 2.2 billion. The number of children living in poverty is estimated to be 1.3 billion (over 60%). The majority of children living in poverty live in developing countries, specially in sub-Saharan Africa (43%)
- ❑ There are an estimated 160 million children in child labor worldwide about 10%. The majority of children in child labor are in developing countries and about 70% is in agriculture
- ❑ The United Nations estimates that there are more than 260 million people worldwide who are discriminated against on the basis of work and descent. Absolute majority of the them in living in South Asia specially India. According to the World Bank, 70% of Dalits live below the national poverty line.

Challenges and Issues

The G20 policy framework, while acknowledging the importance of inclusiveness and the principle of "leave no one behind," faces certain critical challenges in effectively addressing the interests of vulnerable groups and sectors like migrants, refugees, women, children, youth, indigenous peoples, minorities, communities discriminated on work and descent, persons with disabilities, etc.

While much efforts have been made, it is important to ensure that the G20's policies truly benefit all and leave no one behind on the ground.

Despite the G20's recognition of the importance of inclusiveness, there is a gap between rhetoric and implementation. The policy framework needs to more effectively incorporate the perspectives and needs of vulnerable groups in its decision-making processes and policy formulation.

While the G20 may develop inclusive policies, translating them into concrete actions at the national level among member states can be challenging. Ensuring effective implementation and monitoring of these policies is crucial to achieving the principle of "leave no one behind. The policy framework may lack targeted measures and resources directed specifically at addressing the unique challenges faced by vulnerable groups. Generic policies may not effectively address the diverse needs of these groups, requiring more tailored approaches.

Limited data and research on the specific situations and needs of vulnerable groups may hinder evidence-based policy development. A comprehensive understanding of the barriers they face is essential for crafting effective policies. The representation of vulnerable groups in G20 discussions and decision-making processes may be limited, making it challenging to truly understand their perspectives and ensure their interests are adequately addressed.

Women and LGBTIQX

Individuals and communities also experience social, political and economic exclusion because of their ascribed (or sometimes voluntarily assumed) identities. This includes women in all their diversity, including LGBTQX persons, persons with sexual orientations not accepted by mainstream society or people. Throughout the world, women in all their diversity, including LGBTIQX persons, are marginalised despite decades of commitment to women's empowerment and gender equality (UN Women, various publications; UNRISD 2022). Patriarchal norms are endemic and reflected in all societies and communities, whether dominant or marginalised.

People belonging to minority, especially women from minority faiths face discrimination and violence in the exercise of their religious or cultural beliefs. They may be subject to restrictions on celebrating festivals, dress codes or eating habits. Interfaith marriages, even where legally permitted, can incur the wrath of the family or community, leading to honour killings or murder. The range of restrictions, discrimination and violence affecting their lives and livelihoods is wide.

Children and Older People

Other perennially excluded groups include older people and children—who generally have no voice in their family, community or country. An estimated 160 million children—63 million girls and 97 million boys—are exploited in child labour—almost 1 in 10 of all children worldwide; 79 million children are engaged in hazardous work (ILO no year); and 40 per cent of all displaced people worldwide are children (UNHCR 2022).

Labour Migrants

The number of migrants has doubled in the last decade and will reach 281 million by 2022, of which almost two-thirds will be labour migrants. 135 million international migrants are women. The reasons for migration range from the positive search for opportunities—voluntary migration—to fleeing poverty and unemployment, the effects of climate change and discrimination, conflict and war—involuntary distress migration, which often overlaps with flight. Involuntary or distress migrants tend to find employment that is exploitative, downgrades their skills, is dangerous and "dirty", has low wages, poor working conditions and no social protection. As an indicator of the risks associated with distress migration, at least 3,900 migrants are expected to be dead or missing worldwide in 2020 (IOM 2022).

Refugees

Migrants and refugees are also at risk of exclusion due to statelessness, lack of citizenship documents or when the state revises its citizenship criteria. State policies can promote/exacerbate exclusion, the Citizenship Amendment Act and the National Register of Citizens in India can exclude sections of the Muslim, Tribal, Nomadic community and others due to their inability to produce documents to prove their residency status. Internal migrant, nomadic and displaced populations are also excluded from accessing services because they do not have documents to access government services in their current place of work or residence, even though they may have them in their places of origin.

Indigenous and Tribal People

Indigenous/Tribal peoples face similar systematic discrimination, particularly in terms of being denied control over land and water resources. The UN estimates that there are more than 370 million indigenous people in 70 countries around the world, who are commonly defined as descendants of the original inhabitants of a given place. They have unique traditions, beliefs and knowledge systems, including those related to the management of natural resources.

Their social and cultural beliefs differ from those of the dominant groups in the societies in which they live. Because of their economic 'assets'—land, mineral or water resources— they are often oppressed and persecuted by their own governments or transnational corporations. Indigenous peoples include the Lakota in the USA, the Maya in Guatemala, the Aymara in Bolivia, the Inuit and Aleuts, the Saami, the Aborigines and Torres Strait Islanders, and the Maori. Permanent Forum on Indigenous Peoples (no year). Tribal and Adivasi communities in India also consider themselves to be indigenous.

Indigenous peoples often have much in common with other discriminated and excluded groups, facing lack of political representation and participation, economic marginalisation and poverty, lack of access to social services and discrimination (United Nations. Permanent Forum of Indigenous Peoples. No year).

Dalits and Discrimination based on Work and Descent

Individuals and communities especially affected include those discriminated on the basis of work and descent, the most flagrant form of which being caste discrimination experienced by the Dalit communities. More than 260 million people across the world are discriminated on the basis of work and descent or face caste-based discrimination. These communities are among the most marginalised and excluded in terms of political, social and economic development, including untouchability practices. Across generations, these communities have faced discrimination and exclusion in every sphere of life, and this has often led to high incidence of poverty among them and precludes them from the enjoyment of their rights and entitlements as well as meaningful participation in public life. Communities include Quilombola in Brazil, Dalits in South Asia, Burakumin (Japan), Oru in West Africa, Roma and Sinti across continents among others. Intergenerational forms of slavery continue to exist in the Sahel region in Africa. The umbrella term to describe those communities is Communities Discriminated on Work and Descent (CDWD). (Taken from United Nations (2022).

Persons with Disabilities

In terms of numbers, the largest group of people facing discrimination and marginalisation is the estimated 1.3 billion people with a significant disability. This represents 16% of the world's population, or 1 in 6 people. Some people with disabilities die up to 20 years earlier than people without disabilities and are twice as likely to develop conditions such as depression, asthma, diabetes, stroke, obesity or poor oral health. These inequalities arise from inequities such as stigma, discrimination, poverty, exclusion from education and employment, physical barriers to access and barriers within the health system itself. Laws and policies may deny them the right to make their own decisions and allow a range of harmful health practices, such as forced sterilisation, involuntary admission and treatment, and even institutionalisation (from WHO (2023).

In order to address those challenges and bridge the gaps, we are making the following policy recommendations in line with human rights-based approach and gender equality.

General Recommendations

- 1) We call upon all G20 leaders to embrace the principle of "leave no one behind" and promote inclusiveness by promptly taking action to sign and ratify international human rights treaties related to non-discrimination.
- ❑ International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR)
 - ❑ International Covenant on Economic, Social and Cultural Rights (ICESCR)
 - ❑ International Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Racial Discrimination (ICERD)
 - ❑ Convention on the Elimination of All Forms of Discrimination against Women (CEDAW)
 - ❑ Convention on the Rights of Persons with Disabilities (CRPD)
 - ❑ International Convention on the Protection of the Rights of All Migrant Workers and Members of Their Families
 - ❑ Convention on the Rights of the Child (CRC)
 - ❑ International Convention for the Protection of All Persons from Enforced Disappearance (CED)
- 2) We also call upon all G20 leaders to commit to the core ILO conventions to eliminate all forms of discriminations in working place.
- 3) To foster a world that upholds human rights and gender equality, we strongly advocate for the integration of human rights and gender perspectives into all G20 policy discussions, both at the national and international levels.
- 4) Recognizing the significance of data-driven decision-making, we emphasize the need for G20 leaders to prioritize investments in research and data capacity, particularly for disaggregated data to advance inclusive social policies aligned with SDG Target 17.18.
- 5) We call upon the G20 countries to facilitate the participation of these communities and their representative civil society organisations in policy development, implementation and monitoring to positively impact these communities.

Recommendations for Women and Girls’ Empowerment

The G20 acknowledges the disproportionate impact of the COVID-19 pandemic and other crises on women and girls and reaffirms the G20’s commitment to promoting gender equality and women’s empowerment in recovery and sustainable development efforts. However, G20 lacks detailed policy commitments and concrete steps for implementation. A more detailed and action-oriented approach is vital to ensure meaningful progress in achieving gender equality and building a more inclusive and sustainable world.

The G20 should strengthen their commitment to gender equality and women’s empowerment with special focus on women and girls from these vulnerable communities in advancing the social, economic, and political rights of women and girls worldwide.

- Enforce Gender Equality Laws: We call upon G20 leaders to implement and enforce robust laws and regulations that promote gender equality, protect women’s rights, and address gender-based discrimination in all sectors, including the labor market and education.
- Targeted Support for Women Entrepreneurs: We call upon G20 leaders to Establish financial mechanisms and support programs that specifically target women entrepreneurs and provide them with access to capital, training, and networks to grow their businesses and contribute to economic growth.

- Investment in Digital Infrastructure: We call upon G20 leaders to Invest in digital infrastructure and technology to ensure that women and girls have equal access to digital resources, information, and opportunities, bridging the digital gender divide.
- Paid Parental Leave and Flexible Work Policies: We call upon G20 leaders to Implement paid parental leave and flexible work policies that encourage a better balance between work and family responsibilities, helping to reduce the burden of unpaid care work on women.
- Gender-Responsive Budgeting: We call upon G20 leaders to Adopt gender-responsive budgeting to ensure that public funds are allocated in a way that addresses gender disparities and promotes gender equality in all sectors.
- Targeted Education Initiatives: We call upon G20 leaders to Develop targeted initiatives to encourage girls’ and women’s participation in STEM education and other fields traditionally dominated by men, providing equal opportunities for education and career advancement.
- Comprehensive Violence Prevention Strategies: We call upon G20 leaders to Develop comprehensive strategies to prevent and address gender-based violence, including awareness campaigns, support services, and legal protection for victims.
- Inclusive Leadership Representation: We call upon G20 leaders to Encourage and support women’s participation in leadership positions across all sectors, including in politics, business, and academia, to ensure diverse perspectives and equal representation.
- Empowerment of Women in Rural Areas: We call upon G20 leaders to Tailor development programs to address the specific needs and challenges faced by women in rural areas, including access to education, healthcare, and economic opportunities.
- Data Collection and Monitoring: We call upon G20 leaders to Improve data collection and monitoring systems to track progress on gender equality and women’s empowerment, allowing for evidence-based policy development and assessment of impact.

Recommendation on Migrant Workers and Refugees

The G20 emphasizes the support for the full inclusion of migrants, including migrant workers and refugees, in post-pandemic recovery efforts and acknowledges the importance of preventing irregular migration and migrant smuggling while responding to humanitarian needs and addressing the root causes of displacement. Furthermore, it advocates for strengthening cooperation between countries of origin, transit, and destination and maintaining a continuous dialogue on migration and forced displacement.

However, the G20 lacks specific policy recommendations and actionable steps to achieve the stated goals. The G20 should play a leading role in addressing migration and refugee challenges, ensuring the protection of human rights and creating a more inclusive and resilient global community.

Comprehensive Migration Policies

- We call upon the G20 leaders to honor and implement the provisions outlined in the Global Compact for Migration and the Refugees, established in 2018.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to develop and implement comprehensive migration policies that ensure the protection of migrants’ human rights and dignity, regardless of their migration status. These policies should focus on access to basic services, fair working conditions, and social inclusion.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to address the root causes of forced displacement, such as conflict, poverty, and environmental challenges, through international cooperation and development assistance to promote stability and create opportunities in countries of origin.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to facilitate the integration of migrant workers into labor markets by providing language training, skills development, and recognition of qualifications, enabling them to contribute effectively to their host societies’ economies.

Refugee Protection, Border Management and Integration:

- We call upon the G20 leaders to support host countries in providing adequate resources and assistance for the integration of refugees, including access to education, healthcare, and employment opportunities, to ensure their successful inclusion in society.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to enhance cooperation among countries of origin, transit, and destination to effectively manage borders, combat irregular migration, and prevent migrant smuggling while respecting migrants' rights and ensuring humane treatment.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to increase support for humanitarian efforts to provide necessary aid and protection to displaced populations and refugees, particularly in crisis situations, and ensure timely and adequate funding for relief efforts.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to support capacity building for countries receiving high numbers of migrants and refugees to improve their ability to provide essential services and ensure smooth integration.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to enhance data sharing and research on migration and refugee flows to develop evidence-based policies and responses, better understand migration patterns, and plan effective interventions.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to strengthen regional and international cooperation mechanisms to address migration and refugee challenges collectively and share best practices in managing migration flows and offering protection to vulnerable populations.
- We call upon the G20 leaders to maintain a continuous and inclusive dialogue on migration and forced displacement in future G20 Presidencies to exchange experiences, review progress, and develop innovative solutions to ongoing challenges.

Policy Pack on Climate and Environment

1. Context

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2. Major Challenges and Issues

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3. Policy Recommendations

1. Context

While the G20's primary focus is on economic and financial issues, discussions on environment and climate change have become increasingly significant due to the recognition of their interconnectedness and its profound impact on global economic stability, sustainable development and human well-being.

The G20 Environment and Climate Ministers' Meeting plays a central role in discussing and formulating environmental policies and climate action strategies among the member countries. To support their efforts, the G20 has established several working bodies, including the G20 Climate Sustainability Working Group, G20 Green Finance Study Group, G20 Energy Transitions Working Group and G20 Circular Carbon Economy Platform.

Climate change first emerged as a prominent issue on the G20 agenda in the early 2000s as scientific evidence began to highlight the serious and far-reaching consequences of global warming. However, it was not until the mid-2000s that climate change gained more attention within the G20's economic discussions. The increasing frequency of extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and growing concerns about environmental and economic risks associated with climate change prompted G20 leaders to acknowledge the issue's significance. The growing realization that environmental degradation, biodiversity loss, air and water pollution, and resource depletion could have severe economic consequences, including hindered growth, increased healthcare costs, and heightened social challenges, also led the G20 to incorporate environmental discussions into its agenda. As environmental awareness grew, the G20 discussions began to emphasize the importance of sustainable growth that considers environmental impacts and resource efficiency.

The adoption of the UN Sustainable Development Goals in 2015 further reinforced the integration of environmental issues into G20 discussions, as many of the SDGs are interconnected with economic and social aspects. The G20 increasingly recognized that environmental issues cannot be isolated from economic considerations and that addressing them requires a holistic approach. Over time, the G20's environmental agenda expanded to encompass a wide range of issues, including biodiversity conservation, sustainable agriculture, marine protection, plastic pollution, air quality, water management, and circular economy principles.

The G20 summit held in Pittsburgh in September 2009 marked a significant turning point in the group's approach to climate change. The leaders recognized climate change as one of the greatest challenges facing the world and committed to taking strong and effective action to address it. The Paris Agreement, adopted at the COP21 in December 2015, marked a significant milestone in international climate cooperation. Since the adoption of the Paris Agreement, climate change has remained a recurring topic on the G20's agenda. G20 summits and ministerial meetings continue to address issues related to climate finance, clean energy transitions, sustainable development, and climate resilience.

The effectiveness of the G20's efforts largely depends on the willingness of member countries to collaborate and implement sustainable and ambitious climate policies both domestically and globally. As the effects of climate change become more apparent and pressing, G20 discussions on climate issues should have evolved from acknowledging the problem to identifying concrete actions and commitments. The G20 should have played a vital role in shaping global climate policy by bringing together major economies and facilitating dialogue and cooperation on climate change mitigation and adaptation. Unfortunately, the G20 has remained unsuccessful in talking this global emergency.

2. Major Challenges and Issues

A. The state of the climate crisis

The latest scientific consensus on climate change is unequivocal: greenhouse gases – produced primarily by burning fossil fuels and the destruction of nature in a system of extraction and production that is primarily about growth and profit accumulation rather than peoples' needs – are causing unprecedented levels of global warming. Data show that for a 67% chance of limiting warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius²², the world has a remaining carbon budget of 400 GtCO₂ – or 10 years of emissions at 2020 levels. Without a radical

22 According to climate scientists, in order to avoid runaway impacts of climate change on people and the planet, the world needs to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels. At the 2015 COP21 in Paris, world leaders resolved to pursue efforts to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius. G20 countries meeting in Bali in 2022 reaffirmed the Paris temperature target.

shift away from fossil fuels over the next few years, the world is certain to blow past the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit. Breaching this threshold would mean fatal and irreversible impacts, even if temperatures might eventually be brought back below that level.

Climate catastrophes have already hit G20 countries but analyses show that the burdens are not shared equally. Most recent estimates show that 55 of the most vulnerable countries have suffered economic losses totalling over half a trillion dollars during the first two decades of this century. Beyond economic terms, loss of lives, territories, displacement, social and biodiversity losses and damages disproportionately impact on people in vulnerable and marginalised situations such as Indigenous Peoples, women, rural and urban poor, smallholder and landless farmers, workers, fisherfolk, LGBTQIA, people living with HIV/AIDS, people living in conflict and disaster, youth and children, elderly, migrants, persons with disabilities, Dalits, and communities discriminated based on work and descent (CDWD), among others.

As the climate crisis worsens, so does the violence against those protecting the environment. According to human rights watchdog Global Witness, a total of 1,733 environmental and human rights defenders have been killed over the past ten years. In 2020 alone, 20 environmental and human rights defenders were killed in Brazil, 4 in India, 3 in Indonesia, 2 in South Africa, and 1 in Canada, Argentina, and Saudi Arabia.

The solution requires deep-going and profound system change, but it also demands immediate changes along the way. One of these immediate changes is stopping the expansion of coal and fossil fuels and making a swift and just transition to 100% renewable and democratic energy systems as quickly as possible and no later than 2030 for rich, industrialised countries and 2050 for the rest of the world. As the world's biggest emitters, the G20, as individual governments and as a group, must be held accountable and compelled to fulfil their obligations towards its solution.

B. How are G20 governments meeting their climate obligations and commitments?

Collectively, the G20 is responsible for around 75% of global greenhouse gases (GHGs) including land use change and forestry²³. The USA is estimated to be responsible for 25% of global emissions, followed by the EU (22%), China (12.7%), Russia (6%), Japan (4%), and India (3%). To limit warming to 1.5°C, the G20, therefore, carries high responsibility.

TABLE: TOP 10 G20 COUNTRIES²⁴

COUNTRY	EMISSIONS (GTCO ₂ E)	% OF G20 EMISSIONS
China	12.6	21.80
United States	11.2	19.20
European Union (EU)	8.8	15.20
India	6.7	11.40
Japan	2.5	4.30
Russia	2.0	3.50
Saudi Arabia	1.8	3.10
Brazil	1.7	2.90
Canada	1.6	2.80

The above table shows that China and the United States are the two largest emitters in the G20, accounting for about 41% of total emissions. The European Union is the third largest emitter, followed by India, Japan, and Russia. The estimates provide a good indication of the relative contributions of the G20 countries to global emissions.

23 Climate Watch Data Historical Greenhouse Gas Emissions https://www.climatewatchdata.org/ghg-emissions?end_year=2018®ions=G20§ors=total-including-lucf&start_year=1990

24 <https://climateactiontracker.org/>

Most G20 countries have submitted enhanced nationally determined contribution (NDC)²⁵ targets, notably including highest emitters such as the US and EU. Fourteen G20 countries have also signed on to the Global Methane Pledge to take actions to reduce global methane emissions by at least 30% from 2020 levels by 2030. Ambitious reductions in methane emissions is critical for keeping the long term temperature goal of the Paris Agreement within reach given that methane is the second most important GHG emission after carbon dioxide, and its global warming potential is at least 27 times higher than CO2 on a 100-year timescale.

However, G20 members are still not taking the necessary level of accountability. Although most countries have submitted enhanced NDC, their overall level of ambition and action is still insufficient to meet the Paris Agreement temperature goal. As a result instead of reducing their emissions by 45% by 2030, based on the projections on the current efforts G20 countries are only likely to reduce their emissions by 10% by 2030. Among the G 20 countries who have pledged to achieve net zero by 2050, only a handful of them (Canada, Germany, EU, France, Japan, Russia, South Korea, and UK) have enshrined in it law turning it into legal commitments as against mere pledges. Moreover, emissions reduction targets of most highly industrialised G20 countries rely on offsets or removals outside the country's borders. This creates a high risk of double counting carbon credits, but also the neo-colonial capture of natural carbon sinks and other resources of the global South. Moreover, these targets are premised on the deployment of speculative technologies such as carbon capture and storage that divert critical support, resources, and money away from proven and far more effective solutions to the climate crisis. High income countries in the G20 should lead the way in mitigation by reducing their emissions, however, appropriate means for mitigation in middle income countries will enable their potential as mitigation may be more cost effective in developing economies.

The 2022 G20 Bali Leaders' Declaration could have been a point for transforming G20 member countries' financial architecture to align with the Paris Agreement. However, it fell short of making any progress in signalling for the just energy transition and fossil fuel phaseout by insisting on the rather unambitious, vague language of phasing out "inefficient fossil fuel subsidies". The lack of clarity around which fossil fuel subsidy or investment counts as "inefficient" or "efficient" encourages fossil fuel infrastructure decisions that are difficult to reverse and work against the transition to a fossil-free future. We are already seeing increased investments in the exploration and expansion of fossil gas in Canada, the EU and its Member States, among others. Fracking in the UK and tar sands exploration in Canada are being discussed as ways to bridge fuel shortages. Coal use has also increased in Germany and Italy.

On the other hand, the promise of Annex II developed countries²⁶ (of which nine are members of the G20) of mobilising 100 billion USD per year by 2020 and up to 2025 to help developing countries finance their mitigation and adaptation actions remains unfulfilled. Collectively, the Annex II G20 members should provide USD 87bn of the USD 100bn annual target. The US, UK, Canada, Australia, and Italy combined should be responsible for providing USD 61bn, but collectively only provided USD 7.86bn and USD 8.35bn in 2019 and 2020, respectively.

Inadequate climate finance amid more frequent and intensifying weather extremes and disasters mean additional burdens on poor and vulnerable countries' already saddled in foreign debt. And yet, more than two-thirds of climate finance mobilised come in the form of non-concessional loans. Of the G20 members, Japan is the largest contributor of climate finance, but financing from Japan typically has lower concessionally than other contributors.

Concerns have also been raised around the much vaunted Just Energy Transition Partnerships (JETP) designed to provide climate finance for the phaseout of fossil fuels in emerging economies and support the transition of affected communities. The South Africa JETP includes a high number of loans and guarantees from the G7 This shows that financing for South Africa's JETP deal is built on market principles, or conditions

23 Under the Paris Climate Agreement adopted in 2015, countries, including both developed and developing countries, are asked to submit their national plans and climate-related targets

24 Annex II Countries of the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change consist of highly industrialised countries required to provide financial resources to enable developing countries to undertake emissions reduction activities under the Convention and to help them adapt to adverse effects of climate change.

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that favour the private sector. This is despite the country's experience which has seen how overreliance on the market has led to increasing prices and energy inequality – the opposite of what needs to be achieved in a just transition. In India, the capture of renewable energy is led by the country's corporates such as the Adani group who are engaged in coal operations, land and forest-grabbing, and human rights violations. On the whole, energy transition remains concentrated in few areas and few hands, far removed from the areas and communities dependent on the coal.

3. Policy Recommendations

A. Mitigation

- I. Global transformation must be based on equity, justice and human rights; Until now climate negotiations have continued in a global neoliberal economic framework which promotes climate colonialism by allowing larger development space to the high income imperialist countries, if this has to continue very small fraction of population and small number of countries in the global north will still benefit immensely. On the current trends six historical polluters (UK, US, Russia, France, Germany & Japan) along with the EU will still account for 27% emissions in 2030) leaving no space for the low and middle income countries. The transformation, therefore, must be embedded with a stronger sense of common but differentiated responsibility and historical responsibility.
- II. All G20 countries must submit their meaningfully enhanced nationally determined contributions in line with their fair share of the global carbon budget that takes into account historical per capita emissions and sufficient to put the world on pathways consistent with the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit (i.e. wealthy countries—which have both historical responsibility and adequate resources to decarbonise faster than the rest of the world—to rapidly reduce emissions to Real Zero²⁷ by 2030 and 2050 for developing ones).
- III. No new expansion of fossil fuel; G 20 member countries, must end new expansion of oil, gas, and coal production and rapidly phase out all fossil fuels by 2030 and 2035 in case of developing countries. This is in line with the IEA's Net Zero by 2050 report, which concludes that there is no more room for new fossil fuel exploration or infrastructure if the world is to limit global warming to 1.5 degrees Celsius.²⁸ Mitigation actions should be consistent with human rights and free, prior, and informed consent, and do no harm principles. All G20 countries should call for a Fossil Fuel Non-Proliferation Treaty. The definition of fossil fuels should include petroleum, oil, gas, coal, fossil-based hydrogen and biomass.
- IV. The G20 must agree on the equitable, pro-poor phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2025. Budgetary support and tax exemptions for fossil fuels encourage levels of production and consumption that are incompatible with climate goals. They also crowd out investments on renewables technologies required to meet net zero. What's more, reports from the World Bank²⁹ and the IMF³⁰ show that they disproportionately benefit higher-income households, which tend to consume more energy, meaning that subsidies are also highly efficient. The G20 must promote the sharing of best practices to design and implement fossil fuel subsidy reforms to redirect this finance to targeted support for poor households and those most impacted by the energy transition.
- V. G20 must stop the implementation and pursuit of false solutions; All climate solutions promoted by industries and imperialist countries harm people and the planet, prolong climate colonialism, and divert attention and resources from urgent transformation. Despite evidences to the contrary include carbon trading, market-based approaches to forests, soil and water, large-scale geo-engineering and techno-fixes, nuclear energy, mega hydro dams, agro-fuels, large tree plantations, biomass energy, waste incineration, and clean coal etc are hurtling people into unprecedented disasters. Ecosystem based approaches and Nature based solutions etc. must be rejected as they create enclosures profiting the rich and locking people out depriving them of critical natural resources and opportunities for community based conservation and nurturing of nature.

27 Real Zero means the total elimination of carbon emissions, without resorting to offsets.

28 <https://www.iea.org/reports/net-zero-by-2050>

29 <https://www.worldbank.org/en/results/2020/11/12/energy-subsidy-reform-facility-generates-knowledge-to-support-governments-to-design-and-implement-sustainable-energy-subsidy-reforms-while-safeguarding-the-welfare-of-the-poor>

30 <https://www.imf.org/external/pubs/ft/wp/2015/wp15250.pdf>

- VI. The transition from the current fossil-fuel based energy system needs to be just and equitable, ensuring the respect and protection of labour and human rights. Such a transition has to be democratic and should ensure that communities that host renewable energy projects significantly share in the decision-making processes that affect them as well as the benefits. The latter should include access to sufficient, affordable energy and meaningful socio-economic opportunities that support the wider community, and not create tensions and divisions. The energy transition should also aim to support a larger societal and political transformation ensuring a balance in the power relations in the society to be meaningful. the process of just transition should happen through appropriate subsidies and investment in Research and Development.
- VII. Aligning with the call from the Urban 20, this transition must leave no one behind, and through appropriate schemes and funding mechanisms, G20 countries must support just transition initiatives, promote green career opportunities in all sectors and enable communities to develop resilience to shocks. Through skilling, re-skilling and up-skilling, ensuring living wages, workplace safety, universal health coverage and social protection benefits, nations must support formal and informal sector workers in the transition to a green and well-being economy.
- VIII. End deep sea mining across the world and G20 countries should immediately stop deep sea mining as it threatens life in Ocean and life on land.
- IX. Carbon trading should not be encouraged as it is not an effective solution for mitigating climate change. Instead green taxes should be implemented as it is more suitable approach.

B. Adaptation

- I. Enhancing adaptive capacity and collective strength, and reducing vulnerability to climate change are critical to minimise damages from an already changing climate, protect people's lives, and prevent economic losses. Additionally, adaptation actions that focus on capacity-building, meaningful participation of the most vulnerable, and are right-based are more effective and less likely to lead to maladaptation. Inclusion of vulnerable and most affected groups is therefore crucial to the development of adaptation plans and policies. Although direct or indirect references to community consultations and inclusion are often found in national adaptation plans and strategies of G20 countries, this is rarely systematic and democratic participation and governance are not used to guide their design and implementation.
- II. G20 countries must increase finance for adaptation in light of the escalating climate crisis; The annual needs for adaptation finance for developing countries are estimated at USD 140– 300bn by 2030. Estimated global private and public climate flows of USD 632bn/yr for 2019–2020 only include 7% (USD 46bn) in adaptation finance. Most of that originates from public actors, and about 80% of adaptation finance is channelled through multilateral public organisations, such as development banks and multilateral funds. While the level of adaptation funding has increased in recent years, it is still clearly insufficient and will continue to be dwarfed by escalating needs as the climate crisis intensifies.

C. Climate finance and transfer of technology

- I. Financing at scale to resource the transition and economic diversification for developed countries; Annex II G20 countries should cover the full costs of enabling peoples of developing countries and other affected communities to deal with the impacts of climate change (including past, present and future losses) as well as the costs of enabling developing countries to shift to equitable, post carbon sustainable systems. Besides the long overdue 100 billion USD by 2020, wealthy countries must agree on a new post-2025 goal that reflects the real needs of developing countries³¹. All climate finance must be new and additional to official development assistance (0.7% of gross national income).
- II. Fulfil ODA shortfalls; the 50 year old promise of the ODA remains unfulfilled. If all OECD DAC countries provide 0.7% of their GNP, it can mobilize USD 200 b every year. The shortfall amounts

to more than 5 trillion USD. Over the last 50 years. G 20 must increase pressure on the DAC countries to fulfil ODA shortfalls, which can easily finance energy transition and eradicate extreme poverty many times over.

- III. Loss and Damage must acknowledge historical responsibility; Loss and damage is not just a financing mechanism. Loss and damage must underpin acknowledgement of historical injustice and exploitation and continued colonization of climate space. Annex II G20 countries must also allocate funds to the newly established loss and damage finance mechanism , which must be additional to mitigation and adaptation finance.
- IV. Climate finance must be grant-based and not be in the form of debt-creating instruments; climate finance should be channelled through a democratic and accountable global fund that is independent of other international financial institutions and upholds the principles of direct access and country-determined, participatory decisions on the use of funds.
- V. New instruments needed to scale up transfers from wealthy countries; This could include use of funding sources such as IMF "Special Drawing Rights", which were drawn on during the Covid pandemic crisis to provide significant public funds on short notice. The provision of funds should be supportive and on a needs- and country-driven basis, toward efforts to undertake sustainable and equitable and just energy and economic transitions. A transparent and supportive framework for climate debt swap can be helpful in this regard.
- VI. Provision should be made to ensure free sharing of safe, appropriate and ecologically and socially sound technologies. We must advance the transformation to equitable, democratic, post-carbon systems. The G20 should create a process to initiate redirection of energy-related domestic and international public finance to only support cost-effective, clean, healthy and safe sources of renewable energy and energy efficiency by 2025, in line with the 1.5 degrees Celsius limit.

D. Debt cancellation

The G20 must provide debt cancellation for all global south countries; such debt cancellation efforts should encompass all creditors, including ensuring that private creditors take part, to free up resources for climate action and other national needs, and to insure that countries are not trapped in fossil fuel and other extractive sectors.

Climate extreme events place additional burdens on the already strained fiscal systems of climate vulnerable countries. Suspending and cancelling debt payments when a climate extreme event takes place will allow these countries to free up valuable resources for emergency response and reconstruction without going into deeper debt. Once a country is declared affected by debt distress all debt service should be immediately suspended automatically

E. Environmental and rights defenders

- I. Hold corporations and governments to account for the violence, criminalisation and other attacks faced by land and environmental defenders; Environmental, land and human rights defenders play an important role in realising the goals of the Paris Climate Agreement and sustainable development goals. The G20 member governments, and the final communiqué of the G20 Leaders' Summit and relevant Ministerial Declarations must include this recognition. We also urge G20 member governments to adopt and/or implement international agreements to ensure environmental and human rights defenders are able to have a say in the way the environment and natural resources are used, without fear of reprisals by powerful actors.
- II. The G20's adherence to universal human rights frameworks should be demonstrated by ensuring freedom of expression, association and peaceful assembly in civil society participation in the G20 and that no one is subject to reprisals for participating in any event connected to the G20, including protest events.

F. Climate Emergency and Ecocide

- I. We call upon the G20 leaders to recognize and declare a state of climate emergency, acknowledging the urgent need for immediate and decisive action to address the global climate

³¹ A report commissioned by COP26 and COP27 Presidencies estimates that emerging economies will need to spend around \$2.4 trillion per year by 2030, half of which should be provided internationally: <https://www.lse.ac.uk/granthaminstitute/wp-content/uploads/2022/11/IHLEG-Finance-for-Climate-Action.pdf>

crisis and call for the UNFCCC COP28 in Dubai, UAE, in November-December 2023 to come up with the concrete action plans with the timelines.

- II. We urge the G20 leaders to establish clear and ambitious emission reduction targets for each member country, taking into account their historical contributions to climate change and respective capabilities.
- III. We urge the G20 leaders to support the efforts to codify "ecocide" as an international crime under the Rome Statute of the International Criminal Court (ICC). This would hold accountable individuals and corporations responsible for severe and widespread environmental destruction.
- IV. The G20 leaders must acknowledge and address the adverse impact of armed conflicts and military exercises on climate and the environment. Efforts should be made to minimize the carbon footprint of military activities and promote eco-friendly practices within defence operations. Additionally, measures should be taken to prevent environmental degradation caused by armed conflicts and to support the recovery and restoration of affected ecosystems.

G. Environmental Issues: Biodiversity, Desertification, Deforestation and Oceans

- I. We strongly urge the G20 leaders to demonstrate leadership and commitment by promptly ratifying all international treaties related to biodiversity and other environmental issues such as the Convention on Biological Diversity (CBD) and the Convention to Combat Desertification (CCD).
- II. We call upon the G20 leaders to proactively engage in the early adoption of a comprehensive treaty to address and end plastic pollution. This treaty should encompass measures to reduce plastic waste generation, promote recycling and waste management, and hold nations accountable for their contributions to plastic pollution.
- III. The G20 leaders must acknowledge the grave dangers and harmful impact of the dumping of nuclear wastewater from Japan into the Pacific Ocean. We urge them to collaboratively explore and prioritize alternative solutions that are both safe and sustainable for disposing of the nuclear wastewater.

H. L.I.F.E and individual actions over collective

In Global platforms like the G20, the governments involved especially those of the developing countries should move away from talking about just individual actions like in the very famous and repeated L.I.F.E(Lifestyle for Environment) because it is now high time to hold the highest carbon emitters responsible. For example, we now know that 'carbon footprint' was a term coined by British Petroleum to shift blame onto people and away from the gross actions of large corporations and governments.

I. Marine plastics

We welcome the detailed discussions within the G20's deliberations on the Marine Plastics pollution; however we would like to see the implementation of rapid banning of Plastic and single-use plastic should be phased out very quickly. Our oceans and the food systems are being held in delicate balance and marine pollution must be tackled at all levels within the G20 countries which are part of those that have the large coastlines.

J. Addressing the Youth

Young people, especially from Most Affected Peoples and Areas, are disproportionately at risk from the effects of climate change, and should receive quality educational information on the issues facing them and be represented as important stakeholders in any climate negotiations. Educational institutions including schools, colleges and other centres should have curriculums that cover the climate crisis in more depth, including a keen understanding of causes, differentiated social impacts, health and biodiversity impacts, and solutions."

K. Respecting Indigenous and Tribal Communities

Indigenous peoples' rights must be central to the just transition: Traditional knowledge of tribal and

IPs has to be respected in relation to large-scale projects, including renewable energy projects. Local indigenous/tribal laws should be respected which is currently not being done sufficiently, for example with regard to land acquisition; Make sure that tribal and indigenous peoples' are heard and that they are a key part of the full energy transition process.

L. Community ownership and benefits

- I. There should be policy acknowledgement of the importance of community ownership of renewable energy projects for the future of the just transition (here community ownership is considered revenue and equity share at the ratio of 50:50 between communities and companies, and above)
- II. State should ensure support for an increase in community led renewable energy projects
- III. Home states should require companies operating abroad to advance community benefit sharing and development arrangements, and to explore the design and implementation of co-ownership models together with affected peoples and communities
- IV. Large scale energy projects should benefit the communities and workers where they operate, through:
 - processes that enable co-development and meaningful participation by all members of the affected collectivity
 - communities should be supported to access capital, develop the technical skills to participate in governance decisions, given veto rights in the case of a minority stake, and protected against the dilution of their shares or representation

M. Transparency & Participation in decision-making and oversight

- I. We demand stronger community representation in the decision making of climate finance and funding towards community-led and community owned renewable energy projects.
- II. National Action Plans and Net Zero draft should reflect concerns of those on ground working to protect land and forests and indigenous communities and should be made accessible to communities who should be involved in the drafting and decision making of these plans.
- III. Companies and government should make publicly available all relevant information regarding projects, impacts and other information that should be accessible to the public and affected persons.

Policy Pack on Peace and Security



Context

The G20 faces a wide range of global challenges related to peace and security, shaped by complex geopolitical contexts. There are over 700 live conflicts today leading to unprecedented migration, displacements and human rights violations across the globe as Afghanistan, Iraq, Syria, Somalia, Yemen, Democratic Republic of Congo (DRC). Further, the Indo-Pacific is emerging as the new theatre of imperialist rivalry between China and the US; the US has 330 military bases in East Asia.

Many security challenges are intertwined with other global issues, such as poverty, climate change, and infectious diseases. While the G20 is not the primary forum for resolving security issues, these challenges demand concerted efforts from its member nations, including the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council, given their significant political influence and economic prominence. The G20's focus on economic and financial cooperation can indirectly contribute to peace and security by addressing root causes of conflicts and promoting stability.

The G20 can play a crucial role in maintaining peace and security by engaging in various means, including diplomacy and dialogue, conflict resolution and crisis management, arms control and disarmament initiatives, nuclear non-proliferation, peacekeeping, humanitarian assistance, and cybersecurity.

In light of the various continuing global challenges and issues, including humanitarian crises in regions it becomes imperative to underscore the pressing importance for G20 leaders to focus their attention on two pivotal priorities: addressing the situation in Ukraine through diplomatic means and advancing the goals of de-militarization and disarmament, with a specific emphasis on nuclear weapons. The Peoples'20 Assembly on 23-24 August, participants discussed conflicts in the host country related to Manipur, Kashmir and Sikkim.

By addressing these pressing matters, the G20 leaders can play a pivotal role in fostering peace, stability, and security on an international scale. By advocating diplomatic resolutions, supporting peacekeeping efforts, and promoting disarmament initiatives, the G20 can contribute significantly to resolving conflicts and reducing the risks associated with nuclear proliferation.

Through these actions, the G20 leaders can exert significant influence in fostering a safer and more secure world.

Challenges and Issues: Conflicts in India - Participants in the Peoples'20 Assembly also highlighted on-going conflict in Kashmir and its roots in India-Pakistan relationship. This conflict has endured for years despite several rounds of talks between the two countries. The painful fallout of this conflict has been the suffering of scores of populations on both sides of the border. Indian government in 2019 abrogated the special status given to the state and tri-furcated them into three administrative zones with severe clampdown on the civic space. The conflict in Manipur between the Kuki-Zo and Meitei communities have spread over the past four months has led to deaths of about 200 persons, displacement of over 54000 persons and scores of wounded,. The context of Sikkim remains precarious too where development interventions, particularly building of dams has resulted in conflicts, highlighting eco-conflicts highlights another dimension of conflict.

The military invasion of Ukraine by Russia and other ongoing conflicts in other parts of the world

The military invasion of Ukraine by Russia on and after 24th February 2022 is an unequivocal violation of the UN Charter and a heinous crime against peace. While we recognize the loss of countless lives, injuries, destruction of buildings and infrastructure, forced conscripted military service, and the uprooting of millions have caused immense suffering and trauma in both Russia and Ukraine, Russia stands condemned for its attack on Ukraine. Additionally, the potential for even greater suffering and loss of life escalates with the looming threat of nuclear weapons.

In the face of this critical situation, diplomacy and adherence to international law are urgently required to bring an end to the Russian invasion of Ukraine. The path to a just and sustainable peace must be firmly grounded in the United Nations Charter, the principles of common security, full respect for international human rights, and resolution of the conflicts that led to the war. We emphasize that the resolution of all conflicts is a matter of diplomacy.

The G20 must prioritize and intensify diplomatic efforts in accordance with international law to address all allegations of human rights abuses, war crimes, and genocide resulting from the Russia-Ukraine conflicts. Regional bodies like the Organisation for Security and Cooperation in Europe (OSCE) should be utilized as crucial forums for resolving the Russia-NATO stand-off within a common security framework.

Furthermore, to foster a just and lasting peace, it is vital to ensure the inclusion of the voices of victims and independent civil society, especially youth and women, in the negotiation process. Countries directly involved in the conflicts should take necessary steps to ensure that these groups are heard and adequately represented. Adhering to the principles outlined in UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security) and 2250 (Youth, Peace, and Security) is of utmost importance in this regard.

Furthermore, we stand in solidarity with all civil society groups who are using peaceful means to resist this war and champion democracy and human rights, including conscientious objectors in Russia, Ukraine, and Belarus. We call on governments to support conscientious objectors and offer asylum to those fleeing the warring countries.

It also needs to be pointed out how scores of other places including Sudan, Myanmar, Afghanistan, Yemen among other places is witnessing continuing wars leading to displacement of millions of people and an acute crisis of hunger and shelter for the refugees. This urgently needs to be addressed through UN acting as the legitimate multi-lateral platform to negotiate peace and rehabilitation.

De-militarization and Disarmament, including the Nuclear Weapons

According to data from the Stockholm International Peace Research Institute (SIPRI), the annual global expenditure on armed forces and military weapons is a staggering \$2.2 trillion. In contrast, funding for peace, climate protection, and sustainable development is lacking, with governments allocating just 0.03% of what they invest in war and war preparations to the United Nations for its agencies and activities.

The UN Charter, specifically Article 26, establishes an obligation to regulate arms in order to promote peace and reduce the diversion of human and economic resources. Given that G20 countries account for the overwhelming majority of global military expenditure and arms trade, their significant economic power and military capabilities make them crucial players in shaping international security and defense dynamics. The actions and policies of G20 members have far-reaching implications for global peace and stability.

The G20 can significantly influence the global arms trade by preventing illegal arms transfers, promoting responsible arms trade, adopting stringent export controls, and adhering to arms embargoes in conflict zones. By curbing the unregulated flow of weapons, the G20 can contribute to demilitarization efforts and reduce the risk of arms exacerbating conflicts.

Another critical concern is that over 90% of the world's nuclear weapons are possessed by G20 countries, including the 5 permanent members of the UN Security Council: China, France, Russia, the United Kingdom, and the United States. India, the host country of the G20 Summit 2023 and its neighboring country Pakistan are also among the nations possessing nuclear capabilities.

The existence and potential use of nuclear weapons pose an existential threat to humanity and the Earth's ecosystem. The International Court of Justice (ICJ) and the UN Human Rights Committee have affirmed that the use and threat of using these weapons is illegal. G20 member states that possess nuclear arms have an obligation to replace their reliance on nuclear deterrence with a commitment to common security consistent with the United Nations Charter, and to engage in negotiations for the complete elimination of these weapons.

While the G20 has the potential to influence demilitarization and disarmament efforts, its effectiveness in addressing these critical issues largely depends on the collective political will and commitment of its member states. Genuine cooperation, dialogue, and tangible actions are required to make substantial progress towards a more peaceful and demilitarized world. By prioritizing peace, responsible arms trade, and nuclear disarmament, the G20 can lead the way in building a safer and more secure future for all.

Policy Recommendations

Military Invasion of Ukraine by Russia

- 1) We strongly urge the G20 leaders to restrain hate speech and prejudices against communities that eventually lead to conflicts and wars within the borders of their countries. It must be recognized that violence against minority communities within the borders of any country can spill over to neighboring countries and hence is not a matter of an individual country, but a regional and even global issue. This is particularly evident in the conflict in Myanmar, spilling over to Manipur, India.
- 2) We urge the G20 leaders take serious note of the many conflicts across the globe and take decisive responsible actions within the frame of the UN and related institutions and conventions.
- 3) We strongly urge the G20 leaders to take decisive action against the illegal invasion of Ukraine and actively support a ceasefire, the immediate withdrawal of Russian forces from Ukrainian territory, and robust peace negotiations aimed at resolving the underlying conflicts. These negotiations should prioritize the pursuit of a just and lasting peace in strict adherence to international law.
- 4) We call on the G20 leaders to fully back the International Court of Justice (ICJ) case concerning genocide allegations and the International Criminal Court (ICC) investigations and ensuing charges related to war crimes and crimes against humanity committed during any conflict. Supporting these legal avenues will facilitate a peaceful resolution of the conflict in accordance with international law.
- 5) We emphasize the importance of including the voices of victims and independent civil society, particularly youth and women, in the negotiation process regarding conflicts. G20 leaders directly involved in the Russia-Ukraine conflicts should ensure that these groups are heard and represented. It is essential to abide by the principles outlined in UN Security Council Resolutions 1325 (Women, Peace, and Security) and 2250 (Youth, Peace, and Security).
- 6) We call on the G20 leaders to cooperate at the international level to address the adverse impact of the war on the social and economic needs of concerned communities and ensure humanitarian corridors during conflict times so that daily lives of people are not affected through inflation, supply chain disturbances and daily lives.
- 7) We urge the G20 leaders and the UN to provide robust protection for human rights defenders and peace advocates, including conscientious objectors, in countries involved in the conflicts.. Safeguarding basic human rights, including freedom of opinion, expression, assembly, and association, is crucial in fostering an environment conducive to peace and justice.
- 8) We urge the G20 leaders to move away from conventional military blocs such as NATO, which despite stated defensive intentions provoke insecurity and fear, and instead move toward an approach based on common security, mutual trust building measures, and international law.
- 9) Lastly, we call on the G20 leaders to commit to the restoration of regional and international peace and security regimes and processes for international conflict resolution. This commitment is crucial in preventing the recurrence of similar conflicts, as it reinforces the importance of international law, common security principles, and full respect for human rights as enshrined in the UN Charter and the Helsinki Accords.

Disarmament including Nuclear Disarmament

- 1) We earnestly call upon the G20 leaders to reaffirm their commitment, as stated in the Bali G20 Summit Declaration, that "The use or threat of use of nuclear weapons is inadmissible." This affirmation should be implemented through adopting security policies that rule out the initiation of nuclear war, ensuring a no-first-use of nuclear weapons stance, and replacing the reliance on nuclear deterrence with a framework of common security based on the UN Charter.
- 2) We strongly urge the G20 leaders to demonstrate their dedication to international peace and security by signing and ratifying existing treaties such as the Biological Weapons Convention (BWC) in 1975, Chemical Weapons Convention (CWC) in 1997, Ottawa Treaty (Mine Ban Treaty) in 1999, and Arms Trade Treaty in 2013.

- 3) Additionally, we call upon the G20 leaders to demonstrate their commitment to complete denuclearization by fulfilling signatory obligations to implement the Nuclear Non-proliferation Treaty (NPT), and also, pursuant to the disarmament goal expressed in NPT Article VI, by observing, engaging with and joining the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapons (TPNW).
- 4) We emphasize the urgent need for the G20 leaders to commit to a nuclear weapons-free world by setting the goal of nuclear abolition in the post-2030 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Initiation of negotiations aimed at achieving the global elimination of nuclear weapons no later than 2045, the 100th anniversary of the United Nations, is of utmost importance.
- 5) We urgently call upon the G20 leaders to make a firm commitment to uphold the principles of international law and fully replace the law of force with the force of law. This can be achieved by accepting the compulsory jurisdiction of the International Court of Justice (ICJ) and recognizing and implementing the decisions of international judicial bodies, including the ICJ, International Tribunal for the Law of the Sea (ITLOS), Permanent Court of Arbitration (PCA), and International Criminal Court (ICC).
- 6) We stress the need for the G20 leaders to take decisive action and commit to a universal moratorium or reduction of military spending. Redirecting these funds towards pressing global challenges, such as addressing climate change, establishing a loss and damage fund, providing humanitarian assistance for refugees, combatting extreme poverty and hunger, and supporting the SDG Stimulus Fund, is of paramount importance.
- 7) Moreover, we urge the G20 leaders to commit to de-militarization by transforming the current military-industrial complex into an economy that prioritizes positive peace and human security.
- 8) Finally, we call upon the G20 leaders to work collaboratively towards creating a common security framework by transforming the current international peace and security regime, considering initiatives such as "A New Agenda for Peace" proposed by the UN Secretary-General for the Summit of the Future (SOTF) in 2024.

Policy Pack on Democracy and Civic Space

- 1. Context
- 2. Challenges and Issues
- 3. Policy Recommendations

1. Context

Democracy and civic space are crucial for peace and sustainable development within the G20. Robust democratic foundations enable citizens to actively engage in governance, ensuring accountability and better governance, which ultimately leads to peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. As the G20 comprises major economies with significant global influence, it has a responsibility to champion democracy and civic space on a global scale, contributing to a more just, equitable, and peaceful world.

Despite economic and geopolitical interests often dominating G20 discussions, some member countries have raised concerns about democracy and civic space such as Open Societies Statement (12 July 2021) and Resilient Democracy Statement (June 27 2022) by G7. However, these issues have not received the same level of attention as economic matters on the G20's agenda.

To strengthen democratic global governance, transparency and public participation should be prioritized. Decision-making processes within the G20, often conducted behind closed doors, should be made more inclusive, involving civil society, non-governmental organizations, and other stakeholders.

While the G20 has established engagement groups to provide policy recommendations, their independence and effectiveness have been questioned due to interference from hosting governments or lack of openness to diverse civil society actors and multi-stakeholders. It is essential to ensure that these groups operate impartially and are genuinely representative of diverse perspectives.

The G20 comprises countries with varying levels of democratic governance, from robust democracies to authoritarian regimes. However, all G20 members are also members of the United Nations, with legal and political obligations to uphold human rights as outlined in international human rights instruments. The erosion of democratic principles and the restriction of civic space are global concerns. In many regions, democratic institutions and freedoms face threats, and civil society encounters challenges in exercising their rights to free expression and participation.

As the G20, it is crucial to uphold and promote democratic values, supporting efforts to safeguard human rights, freedom of speech, and the rule of law to ensure inclusive and accountable governance. By doing so, the G20 can address challenges to democracy and civic space worldwide and foster a more stable and prosperous global community. Prioritizing democracy and civic space within the G20's agenda will contribute to a more democratic, peaceful, and sustainable world.

2. Challenges and Issues

A. Why Democracy and Civic Space Matters

Democracy is a system of government in which the people hold power. This power is exercised through elected representatives who are accountable to the people. Civic space is the space in which people can freely express their views and participate in decision-making. The Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) similarly states that civic space is “a precondition for good governance and inclusive growth, as well as for effective and efficient open government policies and stakeholder participation initiatives” and has established a dedicated “Observatory of Civic Space” to monitor and promote civic space.³²

In “The Business Case for Protecting Civic Rights,” a study that covered 19 million data points by 3,200 researchers in 201 countries, surveying a data set from 1900 to 2017, researchers found, among other things, that a country that moved from 0 to 1 on the V-Dem civil liberties index increased its per capita GDP by an average of 1.3 percent over a period of five years and that there is an even stronger positive correlation between the protection of civil liberties and human development outcomes, such as infant mortality.³³

When democracy and civic space are strong, people are more likely to be engaged in their communities and to hold their governments accountable. This can lead to better governance, which can in turn lead to peace, prosperity, and sustainable development. Alternatively, closures of civic space make it difficult or impossible for marginalized groups to voice their concerns or to organize and empower their members, resulting in adverse impacts on the pace of development, its distribution across different groups, and its sustainability.

³² <https://www.oecd.org/gov/open-government/civic-space.htm>

³³ A. L. L. Hogg, R. Hodess, “The Business Case for Protecting Civic Rights,” the B Team (2018)

The G20 is a forum of the world's 20 largest economies. As such, it has a significant influence on the global economy and on global governance. The G20 can use its influence to promote democracy and civic space around the world which has not been the case till now. The G20 leaders have a unique opportunity to make a difference on the issue of civic space. By taking action to protect the rights of civil society organizations and activists, they can help to promote democracy and economic growth around the world.

B. Shrinking Democratic and Civic Spaces

Across the globe, right-wing extremism and jingoistic nationalism are posing a grave threat to democracy. These ideas are increasingly permeating the society at large and creating polarisation. Many countries in the world have been captured by authoritarian rulers in recent years. Authoritarianism cannot be treated as a new political concept as it can be traced back to ancient Greece, but one of the significant characteristic of today's global authoritarianism is the its populist feature. In many countries with long-established democracies, economic and social crevices have been used to promote hatred and violence through various tactics such as manipulation of national policies and laws, spreading misinformation, politicizing independent institutions. Increasingly countries are criminalising and crushing dissent. Democratic rights of people are being violated through obtrusive state violence sanctioned by national security legislations across many countries.

C. Global Index on Democracy and Civic Space

The Democracy Indices by V-Dem

The Democracy Indices by V-Dem are a dataset that describe qualities of different governments published by the V-Dem Institute. This dataset is published on an annual basis and is publicly available and free. Datasets released by the V-Dem Institute include information on hundreds of indicator variables describing all aspects of government, especially on the quality of democracy, inclusivity, and other economic indicators.

The regimes of the world are classified into four types of political systems: closed autocracies, electoral autocracies, electoral democracies, and liberal democracies according to the V-Dem Democracy Core indices.³⁴

The Global State of Democracy (GSoD) Index

The Global State of Democracy Index 2022 by International IDEA is a comprehensive report that assesses the state of democracy in 167 countries around the world with 4 categories; full democracy, flawed democracy, hybrid regime and authoritarian regime.³⁵ According to it democracy is facing a decline worldwide. The average global score for democratic performance fell to its lowest level since 1995, reflecting a concerning trend. Several factors contribute to this decline, including the rise of authoritarian leaders and governments, erosion of trust in democratic institutions, spread of disinformation and misinformation, and increasing polarization in societies.

It is evident that the decline of democracy is not uniform across regions. While Sub-Saharan Africa has seen improvements in democratic performance, Latin America and the Caribbean have experienced significant setbacks. This disparity highlights the need for targeted and region-specific interventions to address the challenges faced by each area.

To reverse the decline of democracy, concerted action is required. Strengthening democratic institutions, promoting civic engagement, and combating the spread of disinformation are vital steps in this process. Civil society activists and Human Rights Defenders (HRDs) play a crucial role in holding governments accountable and demanding compliance with international human rights standards.

The Global State of Democracy Indices depict democratic trends at the country, regional and global levels across 29 aspects of democracy from 1975–2021, updated annually. The Indices measure democratic performance for 173 countries around the world in terms of 5 pillars; representative government, fundamental rights, checks on government, impartial administration and participation engagement. The GSoD Indices are aggregated from 116 individual indicators, drawn from 14 different data sources of which the Varieties of Democracy data set is the largest. However, their efforts often come at great risk, as exercising fundamental freedoms in many countries can lead to severe consequences.

³⁴ V-Dem Index 2021, https://v-dem.net/media/publications/dr_2022.pdf

³⁵ Impact of COVID-19 on Democracy and Human Rights 2011 by International IDEA <https://www.idea.int/gsod-indices/welcome>

Democracy Index

The Democracy Index of the Economist Intelligence Unit's³⁶ is an annual index and ranking that measures the state of democracy in 167 countries. It is based on 60 indicators grouped into five categories: electoral process and pluralism, civil liberties, functioning of government, political participation and political culture. The index scores each country on a scale of 0 to 10, with 10 being the highest score. Countries are then grouped into four types of regimes: full democracies, flawed democracies, hybrid regimes and authoritarian regimes.

Civic Space Monitor

The Civic Space Monitor³⁷ is a global research project that tracks the state of civic space in 167 countries. It is a joint initiative of CIVICUS, a global alliance of civil society organisations, and the World Movement for Democracy, a network of democratic activists. The Civic Space Monitor 2022 found that civic space is under attack in many parts of the world. The number of countries with open civic space has declined from 45 in 2021 to 43 in 2022. The number of countries with closed or repressive civic space has increased from 37 to 40.

STATUS OF DEMOCRACY AND CIVIC SPACE AMONG G20 COUNTRIES

Group/Country		Liberal Democracy Index (Score, Rank)	Democracy Index 2022 (International IDEA)	COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights Dec. 2021	CIVICUS Monitor 2022 (CIVICUS)	
BRICS	G7	Canada	Libral Democracy 0.74 (25)	Full Democracy 8.87	High Performance	Open 84/100
		France	Libral Democracy 0.79 (16)	Flawed Democracy 7.99	High Performance	Narrowed 74/100
		Germany	Liberal Democracy 0.82 (9)	Full Democracy 8.67	High Performance	Open 86/100
		Italy	Liberal Democracy 0.77 (20)	Flawed Democracy 7.68	Mid-range performance	Narrowed 76/100
		Japan	Liberal Democracy 0.74 (28)	Full Democracy 8.15	Mid-range performance	Narrowed 75/100
		United Kingdom	Liberal Democracy 0.78 (19)	Full Democracy 8.1	High Performance	Obstructed 60/100
		United States	Liberal Democracy 0.74 (29)	Flawed Democracy 7.85	High Performance	Narrowed 70/100
		EU	N/A	N/A	N/A	N/A
	Brazil	Electoral Democracy 0.51 (59)	Flawed Democracy 6.86	Mid-range performance	Obstructed 47/100	
	Russia	Electoral Autocracy 0.1 (151)	Authoritarian Regime 3.24	Authoritarian regime	Closed 17/100	

36 Democracy Index 2022 by the EIU <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022/>
37 Civic Space Monitor by CIVICUS <https://monitor.civicus.org/> It uses a five-point scale to assess the state of civic space in each country: open, narrow, obstructed, closed, and repressive. The scale is based on four criteria: The legal environment for civil society, The political environment for civil society, The social environment for civil society and the economic environment for civil society.

Group/Country		Liberal Democracy Index (Score, Rank)	Democracy Index 2022 (International IDEA)	COVID-19's Impact on Democracy and Human Rights Dec. 2021	CIVICUS Monitor 2022 (CIVICUS)
BRICS	India	Electoral Autocracy 0.36 (93)	Flawed Democracy 6.91	Authoritarian regime	Repressed 31/100
	China	Closed Autocracy 0.04 (172)	Authoritarian Regime 2.21	Authoritarian regime	Closed 12/100
	South Africa	Electoral Democracy 0.59 (49)	Flawed Democracy 7.05	Mid-range performance	Obstructed 58/100
MIKTA	Mexico	Electoral Democracy 0.39 (87)	Hybrid Regime 5.57	Mid-range performance	Repressed 38/100
	Indonesia	Electoral Democracy 0.43 (76)	Flawed Democracy 6.71	Weak/Low performance	Obstructed 46/100
	South Korea	Liberal Democracy 0.79 (17)	Full Democracy 8.16	Mid-range performance	Narrowed 75/100
	Türkiye	Electoral Autocracy 0.11 (147)	Hybrid Regime 4.35	Hybrid Regime	Repressed 29/100
	Australia	Liberal Democracy 0.81 (17)	Full Democracy 8.0	High Performance	Narrowed 72/100
OTHERS	Argentina	Electoral Democracy 0.66 (38)	Flawed Democracy 6.81	Mid-range performance	Narrowed 69/100
	Saudi Arabia	Closed Autocracy 0.04 (171)	Authoritarian Regime 2.08	Authoritarian regime	Closed 7/100

As we move forward, it is essential for governments, international organizations, and civil society to collaborate and prioritize efforts to safeguard and promote democracy. This includes fostering an enabling environment for civil society, protecting the rights of activists and HRDs, and working towards transparent and accountable governance.

The G20, as a group of influential countries, should take a leadership role in supporting democratic principles and human rights globally. By upholding democratic values and collaborating with civil society organizations, the G20 can contribute significantly to reversing the trend of declining democracy and promoting a more open, inclusive, and just world.

It is crucial to address the challenges posed by disinformation and polarization while encouraging civic participation and engagement at all levels of society. Only through collective action can we strive to create a world where democracy and human rights are upheld and protected for the benefit of all people.

Policy Recommendations
Democratic Unity and Solidarity

- 1) We strongly urge the G20 leaders to come together in a united front to safeguard democracy, uphold

the rule of law and human rights. It is essential to strengthen democratic unity and solidarity to counter the erosion of democracy and the rise of authoritarian regimes, including those arising from military coups. By standing united, the G20 can send a powerful message in support of democratic values and principles on the global stage.

- 2) We call upon the G20 leaders to take immediate action to repeal any legislation that criminalizes human rights defenders, democracy advocates, protesters, and journalists. Such legislation poses a serious threat to democratic values and hinders the vital role these individuals play in upholding human rights and the free flow of information. Ensuring their protection is paramount to maintaining an open and transparent democratic society.

Defending and Promoting Civic Space

- 3) We urge the G20 leaders to create an enabling environment for civic space organizations by facilitating access to funding from public and private foundations and governments. By supporting the work of these organizations, which actively contribute to the promotion of democracy and human rights, the G20 can strengthen civil society's role in democratic governance.
- 4) We call upon the G20 leaders to recognize and ensure the right to information, including free access to the internet, as a fundamental pillar of digital democracy. Access to information is crucial for informed decision-making and public participation, which are essential aspects of a healthy and vibrant democratic society.
- 5) We call upon the G20 leaders to collectively take a leadership role in creating a safe and supportive environment for human rights and environmental defenders, as well as democracy advocates, to operate freely and without fear of harassment, intimidation, attacks, or reprisals. The G20 can use its collective influence to uphold and protect the rights of these defenders as guaranteed in the UN Declaration on Human Rights Defenders (1998), who play a vital role in safeguarding democratic principles and advancing human rights.
- 6) We emphasize the importance of prioritizing democracy and human rights education, along with global citizenship education, through the SDG Target 4.7. By promoting education that empowers individuals with knowledge of their rights and responsibilities as global citizens, the G20 can contribute to building inclusive and informed societies that actively participate in democratic processes.
- 7) We urge the G20 leaders to commit to promoting democracy in conjunction with sustainable development, particularly through the SDG 16 plus approach. Integrating the principles of democracy, good governance, and human rights into SDG implementation efforts will foster a more holistic and inclusive approach to sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind in the pursuit of global progress.

Cooperating with the UN human rights mechanisms

- 8) We call upon the G20 leaders to demonstrate their dedication to democracy by signing and ratifying international human rights treaties, including the International Covenant on Civil and Political Rights (ICCPR), and implementing the concluding observations made by the Committee for Civil and Political Rights (CCPR). By committing to and upholding these human rights treaties, the G20 leaders can strengthen the protection of civil and political rights, which are essential for maintaining an inclusive and democratic global governance system.
- 9) We urge the G20 leaders to engage the UN's relevant special procedures, such as the Special Rapporteur on Human Rights Defenders, Freedom of Expression, Freedom of Association, and Assembly in the G20 policy dialogue. By actively involving these special procedures in policy discussions, the G20 can benefit from their expertise and ensure that human rights and civic space considerations are integrated into decision-making processes.
- 10) We call upon the G20 leaders to take appropriate measures to fully implement all recommendations made by the UN Special Procedures, Treaty Monitoring Bodies, and the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) process of the UN Human Rights Council, aimed at safeguarding and promoting civic space.

Implementing these recommendations is essential to protecting human rights and ensuring an open and enabling environment for civil society organizations and human rights defenders.

- 11) Supporting the We the Peoples Global Campaign for a UN World Citizens' Initiative and UN Parliamentary Assembly initiated by the Democracy without Borders as articulated in the Policy Brief – Task Force 7 – Towards Reformed Multilateralism: Transforming Global Institutions and Framework, “Enhancing the Legitimacy of Multilateralism: Two Innovative Proposals for the UN” (May 2023)
- 12) We call upon the G20 leaders to prioritize the establishment of national human rights institutions, where not yet in place, ensuring their independence and effectiveness in line with the Paris Principles. These mechanisms will play a crucial role in safeguarding and promoting civic space by providing avenues for citizens to address human rights violations and advocate for democratic principles.
- 13) We urge the G20 leaders to produce annual monitoring reports that analyze the status of civic space and the protection of human rights defenders in G20 countries. These reports should consider relevant recommendations from the Universal Periodic Review (UPR), treaty monitoring bodies, and special procedures. Regular monitoring and reporting will help track progress and identify areas for improvement, strengthening the commitment to democracy and human rights within the G20 community.

Policy Dialogue with Civil Society

- 14) We strongly urge the G20 leaders to fully embrace and uphold the 8 Osaka principles for meaningful civic participation in the G20 process, which were adopted by Civil 20 in 2019. This commitment should include creating more inclusive spaces that allow for diverse voices from Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) and people's organizations to actively participate in G20 decision-making. Such inclusion can foster more comprehensive and effective policy outcomes that address the needs and aspirations of citizens worldwide.
- 15) Carry out independent, prompt and impartial investigations into all cases of attacks on and killings of HRDs and journalists and ensure those responsible are brought to justice.
- 16) Explicitly recognise and reaffirm the work and legitimacy of HRDs and journalists and publicly support their work. Take measures to foster a safe, respectful and enabling environment for civil society and work with civil society to establish effective national protection mechanisms that respond to the needs of those at risk.
- 17) Desist from using excessive force against peaceful protesters, stop pre-empting and preventing protests and adopt best practices on freedom of peaceful assembly, ensuring that any restrictions on assemblies comply with international human rights standards.
- 18) Review and, if necessary, update existing human rights training for police and security forces, with the assistance of independent CSOs, to foster the consistent application of international human rights law and standards during protests, including the UN Basic Principles on the Use of Force and Firearms.
- 19) Establish fully independent, prompt and effective investigations into the use of excessive force by law enforcement officers and agencies during protests and bring to justice those suspected of criminal responsibility.
- 20) Ensure that freedom of expression is safeguarded in all forms by bringing all national legislation into line with international law and standards and refrain from censoring social and conventional media. Any restrictions should be subject by oversight by an independent and impartial judicial authority and be in accordance with due process and standards of legality, necessity and legitimacy. Businesses must also not capitulate to censorship demands that are not in accordance with international human rights standards.
- 21) Restrictions on internet access cannot be justified on public order or national security grounds. Maintain reliable and unfettered internet access and cease internet shutdowns that prevent people obtaining essential information.

- 22) Repeal any legislation that criminalises expressions based on vague concepts such as ‘fake news’ or disinformation, as such laws are not compatible with the requirements of legality and proportionality.
- 23) Establish an Asia Pacific Human Rights Court, as Asia Pacific is the only region that does not have such a regional court.
- 24) We emphasize the importance of implementing the UN Guidelines for the States on the Effective Implementation of the Right to Participate in Public Affairs. These guidelines should serve as a guiding framework for enhancing citizens' participation in the G20 process. By fully integrating these principles into their policies and practices, the G20 leaders can ensure that citizens' voices are not only heard but also taken into account in shaping global policies and initiatives.
- 25) We urge the G20 leaders to engage in open and constructive policy dialogues with representatives of CSOs both nationally and internationally, well in advance of the Summit. Such dialogues should also extend to policy discussions between Sherpas and CSOs, ensuring that perspectives from civil society are incorporated at all stages of decision-making. This transparent engagement will promote greater accountability, legitimacy, and inclusivity in the G20 proces

Democratic Global Governance



Context

The relationship between the United Nations (UN) and the Group of Twenty (G20) has evolved over time, reflecting the changing dynamics of global governance. The G20 and the UN, recognizing the need for mutually coordinated action at the global level, have worked together to address the crisis and promote stability in the global financial system.

The UN and G20 have a shared interest in global economy and finance but the two organizations have different mandates and roles, and different working cultures and operating procedures. ECOSOC is a UN body with a broad mandate to promote economic and social development. The G20 is a forum of major economies with a narrower mandate to promote international cooperation on economic and financial issues.

The G20 and the UN, among many other issues, have coordinated their efforts to address the global economic and financial challenges, including the promotion of sustainable development. The G20's commitments and policy recommendations are often aligned with the UN's development agenda, such as the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The agendas of the G20 and the UN often overlap on issues such as climate change, sustainable development, and global health. The UN Secretary-General and other UN entities have actively engaged with the G20 on these matters, advocating for ambitious action and policy coherence.

While the G20 operates outside the formal UN framework, efforts have been made to enhance complementarity and collaboration between the two entities. The UN and the G20 Secretariats have established working-level contacts, and the UN has participated in G20 working groups and task forces to provide expertise and contribute to policy discussions.

The G20 Summit outcomes, including declarations and action plans, are not legally binding. However, they can influence global governance and impact the UN's work. The UN Secretary-General often engages with G20 leaders, urging them to align their actions with the UN's global priorities, including sustainable development, climate change, peace and security, and human rights.

Challenges and Issues

The G20 lacks a formal institutional framework and accountability mechanisms. As an informal forum, its decisions are non-binding, and its member countries are not obligated to implement the commitments made during the summit. This raises concerns about the G20's effectiveness in holding countries accountable for their actions or inactions. The absence of a clear accountability mechanism limits the ability to ensure that G20 member states fulfill their commitments, which can undermine the credibility and impact of the G20's efforts.

The G20's composition is another area of concern in terms of global accountability. While it includes major economies, it does not necessarily represent the full diversity of countries or ensure equitable participation. The decisions made by a small group of countries with significant economic power may not adequately reflect the interests and perspectives of the broader international community. This raises questions about the legitimacy of the G20's decisions and its ability to be accountable to all countries, particularly those with less economic influence of the Global South.

The G20's relationship with the UN-centered multilateral system is complex. While the G20 operates outside the UN framework, it has increasingly taken on global governance roles traditionally associated with the UN, such as addressing economic and social development, climate change, and other global challenges. The G20's prominence can undermine the inclusive and representative nature of the UN system, which provides a platform for all nations to participate in global decision-making. This can lead to concerns about fragmentation and the dilution of multilateralism.

We are also concerned about the effectiveness of the G20 in promoting global cooperation and coordination on economic issues. While it has played a role in responding to global financial crises and coordinating economic policies, its ability to address broader global challenges beyond economics is very limited. Furthermore, the G20's focus on economic issues often overshadows social, environmental, and human rights concerns, which are central to the UN-centered multilateral agenda. This limited scope of the G20's agenda can be a hindrance to comprehensive and inclusive global governance.

Achieving effective global accountability and ensuring a mutually reinforcing relationship between the G20 and the UN will require addressing these concerns and strengthening the coherence and coordination between these two important global governance frameworks.

Policy Recommendations

Inclusive Multilateralism and the UN

- 1) We urge the G20 to play a proactive role in advancing a people-centered multilateralism and democratic global governance. This should be undertaken within the framework of the UN, guided by its central leadership and inclusive engagement of civil society. Fundamental to this approach is upholding the principles enshrined in the UN Charter, while all member states of the UN must honor and uphold the principles set forth in the Universal Declaration of Human Rights.
- 2) The G20 should align its economic and social policies and initiatives with international agreements and agendas including the Paris Climate Agreement, Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), and 2023 Doha Program of Action for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This policy coherence will contribute to more effective and inclusive global governance.
- 3) To ensure accountability and progress tracking, the G20 should establish an independent monitoring and evaluation mechanism to assess its commitments and members' compliance with international agreements such as the Paris Climate Agreement, SDGs, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA), and Doha Program of Action for LDCs.
- 4) The G20 leaders should advocate for strengthening of global economic governance mechanisms such as International Financial Institutions (IFIs) and Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) to enhance their accountability, effectiveness, and responsiveness to global and national challenges.
- 5) We call upon the G20 leaders to enhance the role of the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC) in overseeing international financial and economic policies, with a particular focus on the activities of international financial institutions and development institutions such as the World Bank and the International Monetary Fund (IMF) as well as transnational corporations. This should include monitoring and assessing policies related to global taxation, Artificial Intelligence (AI), global supply chains, and other critical areas. Strengthening ECOSOC's mandate in this regard will promote greater accountability and transparency in global economic governance.
- 6) As members of the UN, all G20 countries are obliged to respect and implement UN resolutions and decisions. Therefore, the G20 should actively contribute to inclusive, transparent, and accountable decision-making processes, fostering collaborative and equitable solutions to address global challenges and promote sustainable development.
- 7) Ratifying international treaties on human rights, labor, peace, and security, among others, is essential for the G20 to play a collective political and moral leadership role. They should further ensure the implementation of these treaties domestically and internationally, fostering global cooperation and respect for international norms.

Strengthening people's participation in the UN

- 8) We urge the G20 leaders to actively support global campaigns for the establishment of a UN Parliamentary Assembly as advocated by Think 20.³⁸ By advocating for the creation of such an assembly, the G20 can foster greater representation and democratic accountability within the UN system, ensuring that the voices of citizens are heard and reflected in decision-making processes.
- 9) We call upon the G20 leaders to back the campaign for a UN World Citizens' Initiative³⁹ to create a procedure for citizens' petitions to the UN bodies such as the General Assembly and Security Council. This mechanism will enable citizens from around the world to directly engage with the UN and raise their concerns, thereby enhancing inclusivity and transparency in the global governance process.

38 <https://t20ind.org/research/enhancing-the-legitimacy-of-multilateralism-two-innovative-proposals-for-the-un/>

39 <https://t20ind.org/research/enhancing-the-legitimacy-of-multilateralism-two-innovative-proposals-for-the-un/>

The UN 2nd SDGs Summit (New York, 18-19 September 2023)

- 10) The G20 leaders should reaffirm their commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Aligning G20 priorities and actions with the SDGs is essential to ensure coherence and maximize their impact on global development.
- 11) Strong leadership is needed from the G20 leaders to advocate for a political declaration at the Summit that outlines bold and ambitious action plans on the SDGs for the period from the second half of 2024 to 2030 including the SDGs Stimulus Package of the UN Secretary General. Such a declaration will signal a strong commitment to achieving the SDGs and inspire collective action.
- 12) The G20 leaders should develop action plans and a roadmap based on independent assessments of G20 countries' commitment to the SDGs and the Paris Climate Agreement through the Voluntary National Report (VNR) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). These assessments will serve as a basis for the G20's effective planning and coordination of efforts towards achieving the SDGs.
- 13) To promote democracy in conjunction with sustainable development, the G20 leaders should commit to the SDG 16 plus approach. Integrating the principles of democracy, good governance, and human rights into SDG implementation efforts will lead to a more holistic and inclusive approach to sustainable development, ensuring that no one is left behind.
- 14) We call upon the G20 leaders to initiate the G20 SDGs Progress report starting from 2024 onward, similar to the Voluntary National Review (VNR) of the European Union at the UN High-level Political Forum (HLPF) in July 2023. This report will enhance accountability of the G20 to the global agenda and track progress towards achieving the SDGs.
- 15) The G20 leaders should support the Voluntary Local Review (VLR) of the SDGs as a tool for localizing the SDGs among the G20 countries. The Urban 20 can take up the VLR as an agenda to promote cooperation among sub-national and local governments within G20 countries, fostering inclusive and sustainable development at the local level.

Our Common Agenda (OCA) and 2024 Summit of the Future (SOTF)

- 16) The G20 leaders should acknowledge and adhere to the principles outlined in the Declaration from the High-level Commemoration of the 75th Anniversary of the UN in 2020, which emphasizes the imperative of multilateralism as a means to achieve greater equity, resilience, and sustainability in the world.
- 17) The G20 leaders should proactively participate in the UN Secretary-General's Our Common Agenda (OCA) initiative, leveraging it as a valuable platform and resource to tackle urgent matters concerning global governance and the UN's role.
- 18) G20 Leaders must proactively participate in the UN Summit of the Future (SOTF) in 2024. This summit provides a critical platform to develop an action-oriented roadmap and innovative policy alternatives that address current and future challenges, as highlighted in the policy briefs on issues such as Beyond Gross Domestic Product (GDP), International Financial Architecture, Information Integrity and Global Digital Compact.

36 Democracy Index 2022 by the EIU <https://www.eiu.com/n/campaigns/democracy-index-2022/>
37 Civic Space Monitor by CIVICUS <https://monitor.civicus.org/> It uses a five-point scale to assess the state of civic space in each country: open, narrow, obstructed, closed, and repressive. The scale is based on four criteria: The legal environment for civil society, The political environment for civil society, The social environment for civil society and the economic environment for civil society.

Policy Pack on Youth



Context

As of 2022, there were approximately 1.8 billion young people (ages 10-24) globally, constituting about one-quarter of the world's population, according to the UN Population Fund (UNFPA). This represents 16% of the global population. The largest youth populations are found in Asia (922 million), Africa (634 million), and Latin America and the Caribbean (231 million). Meanwhile, the smallest youth populations are in Europe (148 million) and North America (134 million).

The youth population is experiencing rapid growth in various regions worldwide. For instance, the youth population in Africa is expected to increase by 25% between 2022 and 2030. This growth can be attributed to factors like high fertility rates and declining mortality rates.

Over the past decades, the United Nations has been a strong advocate for youth inclusion through various mechanisms, such as the Major Group for Children and Youth, UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace, and Security (YPS), and the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Youth. Additionally, youth is a priority issue on the agenda of the 2024 Summit of the Future (SOTF), with two Policy Briefs on Future Generation and Youth Engagement published for policy discussion.

The G20 has indeed acknowledged the significance of youth engagement and has included them as official engagement groups from the outset. However, the Youth 20 process has faced challenges in its implementation, leading to ad-hoc approaches and limited inclusivity in representing diverse youth voices.

The G20 Employment Working Group, established in 2014, has been addressing youth unemployment as one of its priority issues. In 2015, the G20 introduced the Antalya Youth Goal, a landmark initiative aimed at promoting youth empowerment and tackling challenges faced by young people in G20 member states and beyond.

The goal highlights the vital role of youth in shaping the future and emphasizes the need to create opportunities for their active participation in social, economic, and political life through three main pillars: education, employment, and engagement.

Despite the policy efforts made by the G20 and other organizations on youth, young people around the world continue to encounter various challenges and obstacles that hinder their well-being, development, and full participation in society. Therefore, it is crucial for the G20 to go beyond rhetoric and implement concrete policies and actions that effectively address these issues and empower young people to contribute positively to their communities and the world.

Challenges and Issues

Youth Poverty and Unemployment

In 2021, it was estimated that around 1 billion young people lived in poverty, with limited access to education, healthcare, and basic necessities. (UN) Poverty affects a large number of young people, limiting their access to basic needs and opportunities for social and economic mobility.

Globally, youth unemployment rates were significantly higher than adult unemployment rates. In 2021, the global youth unemployment rate was estimated to be around 13.1%, more than three times the adult unemployment rate. Many young people struggle to find decent and stable employment opportunities, leading to high rates of youth unemployment and underemployment. (ILO)

Education and Skills Gap:

Around 263 million children and youth were out of school globally in 2021. Of these, 61 million were primary school-age children, 205 million were adolescents of lower secondary school age, and 37 million were of upper secondary school age. (UNESCO).

It was estimated that over 50% of young people in low- and middle-income countries lacked basic functional literacy and numeracy skills, hindering their employment prospects. (World Bank) Disparities in education quality and access to relevant skills training prevent many young people from acquiring the skills needed for the job market.

Access to Healthcare and Mental Health

In 2021, about half of the world's population lacked access to essential health services, with young people being particularly affected by disparities in access to healthcare. (WHO) Lack of access to healthcare services and information prevents many young people from receiving proper medical attention and preventive care.

Globally, it was estimated that 10-20% of adolescents experience mental health conditions, with half of all mental health disorders beginning by the age of 14. (WHO) Mental health issues, including stress, anxiety, and depression, affect a significant portion of young people, impacting their overall well-being and productivity.

Social Inequality, Discrimination and Digital Divide

In various parts of the world, young people faced discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, sexual orientation, and disability, leading to limited opportunities for social mobility and participation. Many young people face discrimination based on gender, race, ethnicity, religion, or disability, hindering their social mobility and opportunities.

In 2021, over 2 billion people, many of whom were young people in developing countries, still lacked access to the internet. (ITU) The digital divide disproportionately affects young people in disadvantaged communities, limiting their access to information, education, and economic opportunities.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability

Young people, particularly those in developing countries, are disproportionately affected by the impacts of climate change, including extreme weather events, rising sea levels, and food insecurity. (UN) Climate change poses significant challenges for young people's future, affecting their living conditions, job prospects, and well-being.

Youth Participation, Representation and Civic Engagement

Young people were often underrepresented in political decision-making processes, and voter turnout among youth was lower compared to older age groups in many countries. Many young people feel disengaged from decision-making processes, leading to a lack of representation in policymaking.

Recommendations

The G20 must address the multifaceted challenges facing young people through comprehensive and inclusive policies. Prioritizing job creation, education, mental health, healthcare, digital inclusion, and youth representation will contribute to a more empowered and resilient youth population, positively impacting global social and economic development.

Youth Poverty, Unemployment and Underemployment:

- 1) The G20 should prioritize poverty alleviation efforts through targeted social welfare programs, employment support, and financial literacy initiatives. Investing in social safety nets and youth-focused poverty reduction programs can break the cycle of poverty.
- 2) The G20 should prioritize job creation and economic growth through targeted investment in sectors with high youth employment potential. Encouraging entrepreneurship, supporting small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs), and promoting vocational training and skills development programs will help bridge the gap between education and the job market.

Education and Skills Gap:

- 3) The G20 should invest in inclusive and accessible education systems that provide quality education to all, including marginalized and disadvantaged youth. Additionally, the focus should be on STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering, and Mathematics) education and digital skills training to align with the demands of the evolving job market.

Access to Healthcare and Mental Health:

- 4) The G20 should work towards universal healthcare coverage, ensuring that all young people have access to affordable and quality healthcare services. Investment in youth-friendly healthcare facilities and outreach programs can enhance health outcomes.
- 5) The G20 should prioritize mental health support and awareness campaigns tailored to the specific needs of young people. Investing in mental health services, early intervention, and destigmatizing mental health issues will promote a healthier and more resilient youth population.

Social Inequality, Discrimination and Digital Divide:

- 6) The G20 should promote inclusive policies and legislation that combat discrimination and social inequalities. Implementing diversity and inclusion programs in education, workplaces, and communities will foster a more equitable society.
- 7) The G20 should invest in digital infrastructure and promote digital literacy programs to bridge the digital divide. Providing affordable internet access and tech training in underserved areas will empower youth and promote digital inclusion.

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability:

- 8) The G20 must prioritize climate action, investing in renewable energy, sustainable infrastructure, and green technologies. Supporting youth-led environmental initiatives and education on climate change will empower young people to become climate champions.

Youth Participation, Representation and Civic Engagement

- 9) We call upon the G20 leaders to strengthen youth engagement mechanisms in G20 process by creating a formal policy dialogue between G20 youth ministers and Sherpas and representatives of youth organizations prior to the G20 Summit.
- 10) The G20 should ensure that the youth engagement process is inclusive and representative of diverse youth voices from various regions, backgrounds, and perspectives. It is essential to engage youth from marginalized and underrepresented communities to foster a more comprehensive understanding of global challenges.
- 11) We call upon the G20 leaders to provide support for an independent youth-led monitoring report to assess the G20 policies and initiatives as well as the Summit Declaration.
- 12) To enable effective engagement, the G20 should invest more in empowering youth representatives by providing them with the necessary skills and knowledge to participate meaningfully in policy discussions, particularly through global citizenship education as stressed in the SDG Target 4.7.

PEOPLES' 20 Mission Statement June 2023

1. The launch of PEOPLES' 20 is a response to address the challenges faced by G20 as well as the civil society engagement process by establishing an autonomous and sustainable international platform for collaboration and cooperation between CSOs of the host country and international CSOs of both G20 and non-G20 countries, and among different international CSO advocacy platforms on issues related to the G20.
2. The mission of PEOPLES' 20 is to engage critically with the G20 Summit and related bodies to promote global justice, equality, and peace. As a coalition of civil society organizations, we aim to ensure that the voices of marginalized communities and individuals are heard and reflected in international decision-making processes in G20.
3. While we know that the G20 has the potential to play a critical role in addressing issues related to economic and financial crisis, we also recognize that the G20 lacks inclusivity, transparency and accountability,
4. Through our advocacy and networking efforts, we seek to hold the G20 accountable to its commitments and international agreements adopted at the UN and ensure that it operates in a transparent and democratic manner. We prioritize the promotion of economic justice, human rights, gender equality, decent work, universal social protection, universal health coverage, and environmental sustainability and climate justice in all G20 discussions and decisions.
5. We recognize that the G20 is just one platform for global decision-making and that true change requires collective action and solidarity across borders and sectors. As such, we aim to build bridges and partnerships between different civil society organizations, social movements, and communities to strengthen our collective efforts for a more just and equitable world, as well as with regional and multilateral UN processes.
6. Our vision is a world where all people are able to live in dignity and with equal rights, regardless of genders, ethnicity, indigeneity, caste, ability, age, faith, language, citizenship status, economic status in harmony with nature. By engaging in the G20 Summit with a critical and constructive approach, we can contribute to the realization of this vision.
7. We are of the opinion that:
 - The G20's response to global economic crises has been largely reactive, with little focus on prevention or long-term solutions. This has led to a cycle of crisis-response-recovery and then new crises that fails to address the root causes of economic instability.
 - The G20's response to global economic crises has been too focused on short-term measures, at the expense of longer-term structural reforms. This approach has been criticized for perpetuating economic inequality and failing to address issues such as unemployment and poverty and income and wealth inequalities, as well as planetary pressures.
 - The G20's response to global economic crises has been too reliant on the interests of powerful countries and multinational corporations, at the expense of the rights of so-called developing countries and marginalized communities. This has led to concerns about the G20's legitimacy and effectiveness in promoting economic justice and equality.

- The G20's response to global economic crises has been too limited in scope, focusing primarily on short term commercial profit driven financial and economic issues while neglecting broader social and environmental and climate justice considerations. This has led to calls for a more holistic and integrated approach to global economic governance that takes into account issues such as climate change, human rights, and social justice.
 - The G20 countries' response to emerging threats to security and peace, such as the situations in Syria and Ukraine, has been deemed inadequate, as they have failed to take necessary collective actions to prevent or resolve these conflicts effectively. This failure has resulted in unprecedented humanitarian and human rights crises. The invasion of Ukraine by Russia is a clear violation of the UN Charter, and it is imperative for all G20 members to prioritize the restoration of peace in Ukraine, transcending their individual geopolitical interests.
8. Due to the above-mentioned reactive, short-term, and narrow approach, geopolitical interests as well as its bias towards powerful interests, the G20 has not been effective in addressing economic crises and promoting economic, social, gender and climate justice and equality. Therefore, we strongly advocate for a more proactive, long-term, inclusive, and holistic approach, which is essential to address the root causes of economic instability and promote global sustainability.
 9. We acknowledge that the civil society response to G20 Summit including C20 process has revealed some weaknesses and shortcomings, which are as follows:
 - It has had an ad-hoc approach, lacking predictability and sustainability in terms of agenda and advocacy strategies.
 - It has focused on the establishment of governance structures and agenda, rather than implementing a well-structured approach to enhance policy engagement and advocacy with G20 bodies at the national and international levels.
 - It has been fragmented and lacking synergistic coordination with other existing like-minded global CSO advocacy networks, including those who are protesting in the streets against G20.
 - It has been financially dependent on the host government and, at times, politically coopted by the hosting government.
 - It has lacked a tracking system about the impact of its own advocacy on policy change at G20.
 - It has lacked the effective strategies to align its agenda with those who are working on the implementation of SDGs, Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and Paris Agreement and to put more pressure on G20 for its accountability.
 10. In order to address these shortcomings and challenges, we emphasize the importance of upholding the 2019 Osaka Charter of Principles of C20 as strategic guidance for CSO advocacy.
 11. We are particularly committed to holding the G20 accountable to existing international agreements and commitments such as the Universal Declaration of Human Rights, UN Charter, all 9 core international human rights instruments and their optional protocols. 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its SDGs, Paris climate agreement, and international treaties on peace and environment, and resolutions of the UN General Assembly including the UN Secretary General's Our Common Agenda (OCA) in 2021, and the right to a clean and healthy environment, as well as the eleven fundamental ILO instruments
 12. To achieve this,
 - We will engage in evidence-based policy analysis and research to inform our advocacy efforts and to hold the G20 accountable to its commitments on issues such as eradication of poverty, reduction of economic, social and political inequalities including gender equality, and climate and environmental sustainability.

- We will collaborate with other civil society organizations and social movements to build a strong, diverse, and inclusive coalition of voices advocating for global justice, equality and peace.
- We will work to amplify the voices of marginalized communities and individuals, including women and girls in all their diversity, youth, aged people, Indigenous peoples, people with disabilities, ppl excluded on the basis of work and descent, migrants and refugees and others who are disproportionately affected by the policies and decisions of the G20.
- We will advocate for increased transparency and accountability in the G20 decision-making process, including effective, inclusive and transparent participation and input from civil society organizations and affected communities of both G20 and non-G20 countries.
- We will advocate for the prioritization of long-term sustainability and just transitions over short-term economic growth, recognizing that environmental degradation and climate change pose a threat to global peace and stability as well as humanity's survival.
- We will work to address systemic inequalities and promote fair and just economic policies, including through progressive measures on taxation, debt, trade and investment, global value chains, ODA, etc.
- We will collaborate with other like-minded Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) to advocate for the promotion of a just peace. This will involve actively engaging in actions aimed at preventing armed conflicts, reducing militarization, and curbing armament, including nuclear armament. Additionally, we will work towards addressing and alleviating humanitarian crises that arise as a result of conflicts and violence.
- We will advocate for the recognition and protection of human rights defenders in all G20 discussions and decisions, including the environmental human rights defenders and in the field of business and human rights, asylum and migration.
- We will work to promote education, awareness, and public engagement on the issues addressed by the G20, in order to build a more informed and empowered global citizenship.
- We will produce policy recommendations on the agenda and role of the G20 as a tool for policy advocacy with the G20 Summit, related meetings, its engagement groups, and G20 member governments nationally and internationally.

Delhi Declaration on G20 Summit

with inputs from and as adopted at the

PEOPLES' 20 Assembly (23-24 August 2023, Constitution Club)

We, as civil society actors from across the globe, convene here in New Delhi for the PEOPLES' 20* Assembly amidst a global landscape marked by crises and conflicts. The reality of our current world resonates with the shared anguish felt by countless individuals deeply impacted by the ongoing wars with over 700 live conflicts including Ukraine, Myanmar, South Sudan, Afghanistan, Yemen, accompanied by the new cold war, the debt crisis, multiple riots within countries, rising economic inequalities, the alarming rise in inflation, critical shortages of essential resources such as food and energy, the humanitarian crisis compounded by climate-related disasters, the enduring aftermath of the COVID-19 pandemic, and the concerning erosion of democracy and human rights.

Paradoxically, in stark contrast with the theme "One Earth, One Family, One Future" put forth by the host Indian government, the current crises loom as an existential threat to the upcoming G20 Summit. These crises unmask the G20's shortcomings in addressing them through cohesive and collective actions. The prevailing fragmentation within the G20 is unprecedented, casting profound doubt on its legitimacy and effectiveness.

The decisions to be made at the New Delhi G20 Summit (09-10 September 2023) possess the capacity to mould the destinies of billions worldwide while concurrently defining the future trajectory of the G20. Recognizing this significance, we fervently appeal to G20 leaders to demonstrate resolute collective determination, serving as catalysts for a fundamental transformation of the prevailing political and economic framework that contributed to the global crisis. This entails transcending the limitations of narrowly-defined national interests, extractive and material growth and military security considerations, and instead embracing a collaborative approach that nurtures global solidarity and engenders trust among nations.

Ending the war in Ukraine, South Sudan, Myanmar and other conflicts is a paramount task of not only concerned countries but for all humanity. We call on the leadership of the G20 to use their diplomatic powers to support a negotiated settlement for lasting peace. We cannot stand by and witness the senseless loss of lives, both among soldiers and innocent civilians, occurring on a daily basis. It is critical that effective measures are taken to provide relief to the millions of those impacted by the war in the region. Ongoing human rights abuses in countries like Afghanistan and Palestine need to be prioritised on the agenda for the G20 leadership to ensure effective prevention of human rights abuses which are happening relentlessly in these regions.

In this context, the Bali declaration, in paragraph 4, enumerated, unanimously, the fundamental principles for preserving peace and security. The essential dictum that, "The use and threat or use of nuclear weapon is inadmissible." was an integral part of the whole. As this is a novel formulation, the Delhi Summit would do well to uplift it and to seek the support of all UN Member States for it through a UN General Assembly resolution in the coming months.

Undoubtedly, climate change looms as the defining crisis of our time. This July has just been declared the hottest ever in history, while bringing unprecedented rains and floods in other regions of the world. We earnestly urge G20 leaders to make substantive and equitable commitments within the revised National Determined Contribution (NDC) framework, setting forth ambitious goals for mitigating greenhouse gas emissions. Equally crucial is the allocation of substantial resources toward "loss and Damage" Fund for vulnerable countries as agreed at the UNFCCC COP27 in 2022. For a rapid, just and equitable transition to

low-carbon development, the G20 must ensure that environmental and human rights safeguards are foregrounded, by conducting environment, social and cultural impact assessments, ensuring effective public participation in decision making and employing decentralised, nature-friendly and community-led solutions. The G20 must prioritise showcasing tangible, practical leadership through the implementation of concrete initiatives, transcending rhetoric to drive meaningful change.

Amidst these intricate circumstances, the global economic landscape rests on a precarious foundation. The foreseen reductions in global production and disruptions in the global supply chain further compound the challenges faced by numerous developing nations. These countries, already burdened by unsustainable debt, confront the harsh reality of resource scarcity. Despite the existence of common frameworks and allocations of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs), the aid provided to least developed countries remains insufficient.

In the sphere of trade, the World Trade Organization's inability to waive patent rights obstructs the access to critical COVID-19 medications. Notably, the arbitrary economic policies such as the USA's Inflation Reduction Act introduce the looming threat of trade conflicts and impede market access for developing nations. In this context, G20 leaders are urged to address the urgent economic issues such as global taxation and reshape the international financial architecture, guided by principles of global equality and justice.

Since the inception in 2008, the G20 has engaged in discussions surrounding the reduction of poverty and inequality. Paradoxically, the disparities between the Global South, particularly Least Developed Countries (LDCs) and the Global North have not only endured but have, in many cases, widened. We urge the G20 governments to address economic inequalities within countries to promote dignified living standards for all.

It is never too late, and the urgency is now more than ever for G20 leaders to delve into the underlying origins of these global crises and challenges to preempt their recurrence. A concerted effort is required to confront the persistent legacy of colonialism that sustains political and economic disparities, as well as the ideological division and confrontations of the Cold War.

A thorough reevaluation of neo-liberal market-driven economies, the GDP-centric growth model, and the ramifications of the military-industrial complex is imperative. The search for alternative paradigms rooted in ecological sustainability, inclusive human development, human security, positive peace, gender equality and social justice becomes paramount.

The G20 must navigate this transition with a commitment to cultivating a more equitable, sustainable, and just global order in line with the internationally agreed commitments such as the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development including the SDGs, Paris Climate Agreement, and Addis Ababa Action Agenda.

Lastly but not least, we are compelled to voice our profound concern about the ongoing erosion of democratic values and civil liberties within numerous G20 countries. The stifling of dissent, encroachments on media freedom and autonomy, undue restriction on funding, and manipulation of electoral mechanisms collectively undermine the bedrock of responsible and inclusive governance at both the national and global levels.

It is in this context that we call upon India which is currently holding this year's G20 Presidency to not only facilitate a clear and pragmatic path to ensure its commitment to voice the 'leadership of the Global South', but to initiate that process from home. This could come through a firm public commitment to human rights, freedom of speech and religious freedom, by releasing political prisoners immediately, putting an immediate stop to the ongoing civil war in Manipur, seriously addressing the fake propaganda and hate speech causing rising divisiveness and hate amongst communities, urgently stopping persecution of religious minorities all over, particularly Muslims and Christians, promoting equitable development for historically disadvantaged communities, and by revoking all the policy measures which have stifled civil society voices across the country.

We appeal that G20 leaders stand as champions of democratic principles, safeguarding human rights and nurturing an environment where diverse voices can resonate without the specter of persecution. Democracy thrives only when unburdened by the weight of repression. The pursuit of sustainable development

necessitates the presence of a flourishing civil society and a resilient democracy. These cornerstones are pivotal in advancing equitable progress and ensuring that the aspirations of all citizens are honored.

We stand united in demanding a world where justice, equality, and human dignity are paramount. The G20 Summit must serve as a platform for transformative change, inspiring a new era of collaboration that transcends borders and ideologies, to build a future where all people can thrive in harmony with each other and the planet.