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C20 POLICY PACK 2021

Building
a sustainable
future for all

C20 POLICY PACK 2021 - Building a sustainable future for all



 Realizzato con il contributo
dell'Unione Buddhista Italiana



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BUILDING A SUSTAINABLE FUTURE FOR ALL

This Policy Pack brings together policy proposals from the Working Groups of the Civil 20 (C20), the alliance gathering this year more than 550 civil society organizations and networks from all over the world to actively participate in the dialogue with the G20.

Continuing to raise our call for a democratic and participatory multilateralism, considering the UN as the legitimate space for policy discussions and decisions, we would like to build on the dialogue with the G20, using the opportunity provided to the G20 Engagement Groups. The C20 calls on the G20 to implement the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development at the national level, as well as to use its economic power to strengthen the UN multilateral frameworks undertaking responsibility at the international level to make the respect of Human Rights a reality for all.

In the second year of an extremely devastating pandemic, that is amplifying already existing unacceptable inequalities and injustices, we want to raise our concerns on the global situation and to share our policy asks and recommendations on the role and responsibility the Group of 20 should undertake.

THE WORLD WE WANT

The world we want is made up of people sharing their vulnerability and skills and creating this way the conditions for a full and dignified life.

The community we want is not built on the “strong” able to include the “weak” in their powerful world. Instead, it is built by the vulnerable on a humanizing relation that shares vulnerability, beauty and skills to create prosperity. Such a bond of solidarity and responsibility is the framework of human rights: an ethical choice that makes us powerful thanks to the common responsibility.

Human Rights are the ethical compass that makes it possible to design and share policies and paths, where there are not ‘developed’ and ‘developing’, strong and weak, but persons who become, without anyone excluded, citizens: right-holders and duty-bearers, holding the same dignity, sharing common and differentiated responsibilities.

In this framework, civil society organizations have been promoting a reflection on policy coherence with the ethical connection to Human Rights and they represent a space for participation and dialogue between citizens and decision makers.



THE WORLD WE HAVE: SOME CHALLENGES

Inequalities

Looking at the world, the profound level of inequalities is clearly visible. The outrageous distance between those who have access to education, safe food, health care, freedoms and opportunities and those who have not prior to the global pandemic was already vast and increased in 2020 and 2021.

The richest countries have at least the possibility to count on strong public solidarity mechanisms, such as the Next Generation EU Fund of the European Union, or on fast provisions of vaccines shared by their public health systems, yet these mechanisms and opportunities are denied to or not available to the majority of the world population. The solidarity initiatives put in place by the richest countries, and by many G20 members among them, are not comparable to the strength of the tools launched and implemented internally by low- and middle-income countries. This situation increases the level of disparities in many fields, from the access to health care to the impact on education, from the burden on household incomes to the working opportunities of private actors, families and micro businesses.

Attack on the Planet

A 150-year run of unregulated economic growth and a consequent rise in greenhouse gas emissions have pushed average global temperatures to 1°C above pre-industrial levels. Extreme weather events, biodiversity loss, deforestation and soil degradation have increased in frequency and intensity, worsening hunger and undernutrition.

This is a clear attack on the Planet resulting from human lifestyles, careless production and consumption choices, lack of adequate policies, yet those who bear the least responsibility for climate change are the ones who are suffering the most. This climate injustice requires a bold initiative in scale and scope and a systemic revision of the narrative for action and the political approach. One of the major blind spots in climate change and environmental decision-making has been the framing of these issues as a geopolitical and economic matter instead of an outcome of human and societal choices. For this reason, we do

believe that the decision-making needs to be urgently reframed in order to prioritize a joint worldwide commitment towards climate justice and just transition.

Violence

Violence is growing in the world. We see it in the perpetuation of local military conflicts killing mostly civilians. Incredibly, the world is still hosting wars, despite the rhetoric repeated for years by the world leaders.

Violence is not limited to armed conflicts: it's spreading also when governments are using the force to humiliate peoples and their democratic rights. Some recent facts are only the last of a never-ending list of governments shooting at their citizens, killing indigenous people asking for their rights, imposing with weapons the will of a few but powerful, harming democracy and pretending to use the law of force instead of the force of law.

This culture of violence is also jeopardizing the relations among people, fueling and strengthening forms of structural violence in our societies. Organized crime consolidates its power at different levels. Violence against women and girls in all their diversity, as a structural phenomenon as well as violence against children and all vulnerable people have been growing and amplified during the lockdowns, often leaving the affected people alone and more vulnerable. This permanent phenomenon is outrageous.

Attack on Democracy

The growing culture of violence has a perverse effect, feeding a general violent environment in our communities and in politics. Arrogant attitudes, populism and nationalism are poisoning the political space. Democratic and respectful discussions become increasingly difficult. Instead of promoting dialogue, populist leaders spread contempt for their opponents and fuel fake news, that a non-regulated digital environment amplifies, corrupting and degrading the internal political environment. Safety of political spaces and of economic and social fabric are threatened also by the weaponization of cyber tools and cyberattacks.

Similarly, racism is growing again, feeding violence against those who are 'diverse'. The controversial reactions against the Black Lives Matter Campaign and discriminatory attitudes and the campaigns targeting the LGBTQI+ community, among others,

show how deep the problem is, ethically, culturally and politically.

Democracy is undermined and challenged, particularly when public institutions are weak.



THE WORLD WE NEED

The world we need is a world where all people are respected and have the right and the real possibility to actively participate in shaping their lives and contribute to wellbeing for them and their communities.

To achieve this goal, we need to create the proper space for our interactions, with adequate and strong public institutions at national and international level, able to promote peace, dialogue and participation and to avoid any kind of exclusion and discrimination, including gender and sexual orientation and gender identities.

Our interconnections and interdependency are so profound that we need strong institutions at the global level if we want to be able to govern the processes. That is why we insist on the importance of the UN system and of multilateral frameworks and mechanisms that improve participation of citizens, communities and civil society.

The alternative is a world dominated by relations of power, that will inevitably enhance differences and conflict, with solutions that are solved with power and domination.

The UN 2030 Agenda is a good opportunity to involve citizens, governments and all stakeholders, including the private sector, in a shared commitment of 'common and differentiated responsibilities' to shape a better world.



A CALL TO THE G20

We channel voices and views of millions of citizens extremely worried about the risks faced by the world.

We know how difficult it is to find a common position, to negotiate among different partisan interests. But we cannot forget the real interest of the people in the world, starting from the most vulnerable and the dangers we are collectively facing. For this reason, we need a different G20: accountable and stronger in fostering UN frameworks and goals, faster in sharing its financial power, clearer in promoting human rights at home and in the international arena.

As this Policy Pack will explain in more detail, we ask for a stronger commitment of the G20 in several sectors. In this particular year the G20 can play a fundamental role in the global health agenda. While some steps have been taken, like the focus on the One Health

Approach, still a lot must be done, particularly about the COVID-19 tools production and availability all over the world. In this regard, we welcome the initiative of South Africa and India on the TRIPS waiver and reiterate our urgent call to support it.

The role of the G20 is fundamental for the sustainability of our planet. For this, the reaffirmation of the 2030 Agenda, the Paris Agreement and the Financing for Development Agenda is necessary with critical attention to climate and food justice, women and girls' empowerment and agency, gender equality, adequate universal social protection and universal health coverage.

The G20 can be relevant also in the way G20 actors negotiate and manage, through trade, their contribution to the global supply chains. The actions of G20 members play a heavy role in the way many other countries, supplying commodities or manufactured goods, implement their national 2030 Agenda.

Trade contracts are imposing terms that, after the failure of the Doha Agenda, are not related to the development goals but are increasingly determined by the political pressure of big international companies.

In this context, just transition risks being undermined and the current transformative process evolves without the needed care. This could generate negative impacts on all workers and their families, on the planet and on democracy. Political initiative is needed, combined with a consistent regulation of the digital environment in order to transform those risks into inclusive opportunities.

We are also concerned about the fundamental role played by the G20 in the financial dimension. We would like a proactive G20, able to act sharing and providing resources at the international level to fund the 2030 Agenda, to improve conditions for sustainable financing for development, and be more pragmatically active in increasing the fiscal spaces of low- and middle-income countries.

Policy coherence and coordination between Sherpa and Finance Tracks

All these priorities are strongly interconnected. The just transition includes rules for workers as well as rules for the environment; the development agenda and the trade agenda have to be tuned and designed together. Any policy must be planned with a gender transformative lens, and with a link to education and to strengthen our global citizenship. That is why our call is also for strengthening policy coherence. Too often the activity of some G20 Working Groups or Task Forces seemed disconnected from the others. Moreover, we question the distinction between Sherpa and Finance Tracks. In too many cases the agenda of the Ministries of Finances ‘shapes’ the political decisions of the G20. Once again, we face a situation where actors play a relevant political role without having received a specific political mandate. We think this is not acceptable.

To avoid these limits, we suggest continuing in some good examples like the joint Ministerial Meetings. In particular we suggest including permanently in the G20 agenda a Development, Foreign Affairs and Finance joint Ministerial Meetings.

We suggest the merging of the Sherpa and the Finance Tracks under the coordination and the responsibility of the Head of States and Governments and their representatives, the G20 Sherpas, in order to have a clear and coordinated process.

Moreover, if we really want to be inclusive, we need to clearly define a G20 Agenda on Gender Equality aiming at implementing gender mainstreaming and establish a Gender Equality Ministerial meeting consistent with the other G20 processes.

 **G20 AND C20**

A challenging condition for civil society

The international civil society submitted its calls to the G20 even before the creation of the Engagement Groups. We continue playing our role, in connection with our locally based groups and communities, in order to facilitate a participatory process of citizenship, to release proposals through a bottom-up process. Civil society is active in putting forward proposals based on Human Rights with a gender transformative lens, and always suggesting alternative visions and concrete recommendations. Civil society is active and necessary to provide independent monitoring of the processes, and upholding transparency in decision-making. Civil society is active in denouncing abuses and crimes. We play our role in order to contribute to improve the public decision-making process.

The risks

In the above-mentioned climate of violence, and in an environment of decreasing funding, civil society faces increasing risks and challenges in playing its role. In addition, in recent years, we have witnessed an increasing shrinking of civic spaces. Many governments and leaders try to delegitimize and discredit civil society activists. In some countries they are persecuted and victims of fake news. Sometimes this happens in violent and arrogant ways, like the killing of representatives of indigenous organization in Latin America or the campaign of discredit against NGOs saving people in the Mediterranean Sea, the too frequent arbitrary detentions or the restrictive conditions that NGOs in several cases face in providing humanitarian assistance.

Building on the dialogue

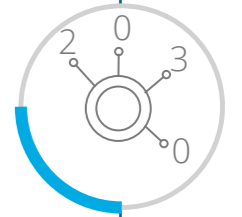
The G20, through the Engagement Group framework, can play an adequate role in building up political dialogue with civil society. We call on the G20 members to implement at the national level inclusive and transparent mechanisms to engage with civil society and communities for dialogue, guaranteeing all kinds of freedom, including freedom from violence.

Lastly, the internal processes of the G20 should be increasingly opened. The dialogue the C20 Working Groups have with the G20 Working Groups in some cases is constructive, in others it is limited. The process can be significantly improved to ensure inclusiveness and engagement.

We call and count on the 2021 G20 Presidency and Troika to identify the relevant lessons learnt and good practices that can be imparted to the next G20 Presidencies, leaving a permanent legacy that will improve the quality of the C20-G20 to be utilized and enhanced in the following years.

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2030 AGENDA AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



Relevant G20 commitments

The G20 has identified the following commitments, as stated by Leaders' Declaration.

"We remain resolved to play a leading role in contributing to the timely implementation of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda".

G20 2020 Leaders' Declaration

"We will continue our efforts to reduce inequalities, reaffirming our previous commitments to promote inclusive growth".

G20 2020 Leaders' Declaration

"We support access to comprehensive, robust, and adaptive social protection for all, including those in the informal economy, and endorse the use of the Policy Options for Adapting Social Protection to Reflect the Changing Patterns of Work".

G20 2020 Leaders' Declaration

"We reaffirm our commitment to tackling the challenges in food security and nutrition, as well as reinforcing the efficiency, resilience, and sustainability of food and agriculture supply-chains, especially in light of the effects of the pandemic".

G20 2020 Leaders' Declaration



The current challenges

FOOD

Food Insecurity and Food crisis are systemic challenges. The current pandemic crisis has worsened the situation:

- The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World, estimates that almost 690 million people went hungry in 2019 - up by 10 million from 2018, and by nearly 60 million in five years. With high costs and low affordability billions cannot eat healthily or nutritiously. The hungry are mostly in Asia, but fastly growing in Africa. The report forecasts the COVID-19 pandemic could tip over 130 million more people into chronic hunger by the end of 2020.
- According to the most recent Report of Global Network on Food Crisis over the last year 20 million more people were pushed into a hunger crisis. We are also facing a nutrition crisis with many families and communities struggling to provide their children nutrition for their physical and mental development.
- The appeal from the UNSG to respond to the current food crisis is yet to receive an appropriate response by the international community. Currently, the minimum fund benchmark for food security and agriculture have not been met.
- The gender gap is substantial in the access and control over productive resources and assets, services and markets. Due to legal and institutional barriers, women farmers have a limited access to the ownership, the use and control of means and resources of production.
- The nexus between hunger and conflicts is one of the main factors that are fuelling hunger in a hungry world. Conflict is the key driver of extreme hunger, and has a growing impact. The UN Secretary Generals call for a Global Ceasefire to allow a much-needed humanitarian pause and peace efforts.

INNOVATIVE FINANCE

- The crisis the whole world is living in has many facets: it encompasses an immediate liquidity crisis as governments are watching their revenues as they decrease while facing growing spending needs.
- As pointed out by a recent UNCTAD report¹, the major risk in the current situation comes from the resurfacing “fiscal discipline doctrines”. Now and in the medium term

the first priority is to widen the fiscal space of governments, so they can effectively respond to the short term needs while addressing a longer haul approach to development.

- Private investments and finance are promoted as the silver bullet for pursuing the 2030 Agenda, well beyond existing evidence and past experiences. While the danger of further financial risk should not be underscored, available resources should be dedicated to public investment that will continue to play a key role, particularly in terms of social equity. Public participation and accountability is strongly needed as part of an effective and sound local policy process.
- Debt is an issue and needs to be addressed well beyond DSSI, which does not represent ‘additional fiscal space’, but only a delay in payments. There is still no debt cancellation for countries struggling with high debt levels.
- The tendency to redirect funds already allocated instead of allocating new ones to allow the ODA to play its role is a matter that is likely to be shadowed by the debate about innovative finance.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Social protection also plays a key role in supporting and promoting food security, livelihoods and access to nutritious foods.
- Despite the impressive number and scale of social protection responses upheld to face the consequences of the pandemic, these measures remain uneven between countries, in many cases merely temporary and overall insufficient to create resilient social protection systems.
- The international community committed to support national efforts to provide adequate social protection when adopted target 1.3 on social protection of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Social Compact of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (para. 12). During the pandemic, funding for social protection has not been sufficient, and prior to the pandemic, international funding for social protection only represented 1,4% of total ODA.

¹ UNCTAD. (2021). Out of the frying pan ... Into the fire? Trade and Development Report Update. <https://unctad.org/webflyer/out-frying-pan-fire>

- Ensuring that Social Protection Floors are ensured to all in all phases of life requires the strong commitment in 'ringfencing' public budgets to that aim. Likewise, attention should be paid to the ways fiscal space is provided, including domestic efforts to strengthen the fiscal base, with due attention to the global and systemic constraints. However, the international community lacks effective plans to implement international taxation cooperation, eliminating illicit financial flows, tax avoidance and evasion and fighting fiscal havens.

INTERMEDIARY CITIES

- Intermediary cities play a key role in pursuing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. In this, the debate on localization is particularly important, not only in terms of achieving SDGs at local level, but also in giving a more specific attention to how 2030 Agenda principles find application at local level, empowering local stakeholders – and right holders –, leveraging their specific economic, cultural, social and creative resources. Overall the question to be asked is: how can sustainable development become more responsive and relevant to local needs and ambitions at local level, particularly those of the poorest and most vulnerable?
- Intermediary cities have a great economic potential that should be fully made available to local social actors, through local food systems and commodity chains. It is of utmost importance that the 2030 Agenda principle 'leave no one behind' is fully taken into consideration and made concrete, with particular reference to three distinct elements.

CIVIC SPACE

- Recent research from CIVICUS² confirms an ongoing trend of compression and shrinking of the civil liberties that worsened during the past year, as part of a longer-term decline.
- The increase of nationalism and populisms, together with the outbreak of the pandemic, threatens the democratic space occupied by free civil society organizations. Even global and public spaces, such as the High-Level Political Forum, are threatened by proposals aimed at limiting the participation of CSOs.

- HLPF format and VPR do not recognize the key role of civil society participation as crucial to the development of strong democracies. Civil society participation strengthens the process of accountability, provides alternative approaches, and better knowledge. Such participation requires inclusivity, meaningful and permanent, and not only set up to respond to acute emergencies or in the immediate needs of the HLPF presentation.

Priority asks and recommendations

G20 Governments must encompass a clear strategy with defined priorities and appropriate funding in order to achieve the objectives of the 2030 Agenda and beyond.

FOOD

- G20 Governments must address the issues faced by the movement of farmers and food workers to keep food markets open and maintain access to agricultural inputs. Moreover, additional support is needed for small-scale farmers and pastoralists to restock and prepare for the next planting season.
- The G20 must support increased prioritisation of targeted actions to address malnutrition in food security and famine response. The G20 should also support long term and preventative measures to mitigate the risks of widespread hunger, including supporting the expansion of government-led social protection of children and their caregivers (predominantly women), working progressively towards universal child benefits.
- G20 countries must commit to support initiatives promoted within multilateral, democratic and accountable fora, based on a local and territorial approach, in order to put fairer, more resilient, and sustainable food systems at the heart of the post-pandemic recovery.
- The G20 should contribute to build resilience with focus on strong communities and food systems more able to withstand climate- and conflict-related shocks. Urgent action is needed to deliver dramatic cuts in emissions and keep global temperatures from rising above 1.5 degrees.

² CIVICUS "State of Civil Society Report 2020" <https://www.civicus.org/index.php/state-of-civil-society-report-2020>

- The G20 should also help to dismantle systematic barriers faced by women producers and workers, towards an inclusive, democratic and sustainable business model (e.g. cooperatives, etc.) to improve their access to markets, financing.

INNOVATIVE FINANCE

- G20 should aim at improving national management of public finance that should be complemented with initiatives in identifying and addressing supra-national constraints that require a much stronger international cooperation.
- G20 should aim to widen the government fiscal space in order to effectively respond to the short term needs while addressing a longer haul approach to development.
- Innovative financing tools should be carefully scrutinized in terms of transparency and accountability, mindful of the potential of increasing debt in an already overindebted world, and avoiding the build-up of (explicit or implicit) conditionalities.
- G20 must encompass a multilateral, fair and transparent framework for debt resolution under the aegis of the United Nations, which can adequately recognize the systemic nature of the debt crisis, the co-responsibilities of lenders and borrowers, and provide a legally binding framework for private sector participation. Additional liquidity to face current challenges is urgently needed: the support to the proposed SDR release and recycling to LMICs is welcomed, but the amount of 650 MUSD falls very short of the actual needs.

SOCIAL PROTECTION

- Governments should “ring fence” their SPF budgets, which requires adequate and sustainable fiscal revenues in normal times and appropriate supplementary financing in times of strain.
- C20 calls upon all governments to let the SPF to play a transformative role by providing adequate social protection floors to all at all stages of the life cycle by ensuring that women and girls in all their diversity have access to livelihood, are able to address lifecycle risks and shocks, as well as face vulnerabilities created by systematic and intersecting forms of discrimination.

- States must take into account informal work and its gendered dimension, as women tend to be overrepresented in the informal sector, as well as perform most of the unpaid and underpaid care work that allows our societies and economies to function.
- The C20 calls on the international community, including the G20, to fully support those efforts, through macro-economic policies enabling low and middle income states to create fiscal space for social protection.
- In the view of ensuring that countries put in place national social protection floors (as stated by the ILO recommendation 202) the C20 calls on the G20 to support the proposal to create a Global Fund for Social Protection, as called for by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights. Civil society organizations have an important role to play in the Fund, by drawing on their expertise in implementing social protection programs, supporting governments for the design and implementation of effective universal SPFs.

INTERMEDIARY CITIES

- G20 leaders are called to give a concrete meaning to the principle ‘leave no one behind’: in the basic social services provision, ensuring that the improvement of these services benefit the population at large, and more specifically the poorest and most vulnerable people.
- ‘Leave no one behind’ in economic development. Just transition cannot be only based on digitalization and technical development, which risk fostering and exacerbating inequalities. We suggest that complementary redistributive and pre-distributive measures are to be taken in order to ensure that the needs of the most vulnerable strata of the societies are appropriately responded to.
- Third, but perhaps most important, ‘leave no one behind’ in the local governance, promoting the construction of spaces of participation. Attention should be paid to the spaces of the right holders (as opposed to the stakeholders only), leaving no one’s voice behind.
- We would like to specifically recall that in enhancing the sustainable development of cities that are inclusive and cohesive, it is essential to mainstream gender in urban planning, regulations and governance. This would include a wide range of specific arrangements and policies, which include housing rights (including housing subsidies)

and inheritance laws, land policies and security of tenure, parental leave, equal pay legislation, legislation against gender-based violence, local governance, accountability, data collection/disaggregation, education, safety, urban services (including childcare).

CIVIC SPACE

- The C20 calls on the international community, including the G20, to champion and create space for meaningful engagement of civil society, communities and children in national and global processes, decision making, monitoring and accountability.
 - Review the format and the role of the HLPF as well as the tools used for the process, like the VNRs. Currently, the VNRs and their presentation in HLPF seem more an opportunity to publicly promote the country than a critical and effective tool to analyse and provide feedback.
- States must commit to support freedom of action for civil society:
 - Take concrete action to put an end to the criminalization and stigmatization of human rights defenders by both state and non-state actors.
 - Protect civil society actors from violence, investigate alleged violations of CSO members' rights and hold those responsible accountable. Take measures to halt violations and prevent their recurrence.
- The G20 should contribute to enable mechanisms to create sustainable partnerships for development:
 - Build and strengthen multi-sectoral partnerships for development according to principles and contents of the 2030 Agenda (including a reference to SDG 17) through improved channels for CSO engagement and full participation in public policy development.



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GLOBAL HEALTH

Relevant G20 commitments

The C20 Global Health Working Group (GHWG) has the overarching goal of achieving Universal Health Coverage (UHC). We advocate for health as a global public good and a human right, which is critical in achieving the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). We are firmly committed to ensuring women and girls in all their diversity, vulnerable groups¹, marginalised communities, and key populations² are at the centre of global health strategies and responses.

Under the Italian presidency, the G20 has identified health threats as a central objective towards economic stability and prosperity, with the G20 Health Working Group (HWG) priorities as follows:

- **Priority One** – Healthy and Sustainable Recovery: Monitoring the global health impact of the COVID-19 pandemic, with a detailed assessment of its consequences on the implementation of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).
- **Priority Two** – Building Transformative Resilience: Defining preparedness plans, starting from the most vulnerable context and the less resilient countries, through the One Health Approach.
- **Priority Three** – Coordinated and Collaborative Response: Planning a globally coordinated and collaborative response to health crises and emergencies.
- **Priority Four** – Accessible Control Tools: Defining common global strategies to support the equitable access to control tools (VTD), including a continuous investment in health promotion and diseases prevention to achieve the Universal Health Coverage (UHC).

In addition, the Rome Declaration adopted at the Global Health Summit on the 21st May 2021 has underlined that “... sustained investments in global health, towards achieving UHC and with primary healthcare at its centre, One Health, and preparedness and resilience, are broad social and macro-economic investments in global public goods, and that the cost of inaction is orders of magnitude greater.”

¹ Vulnerable groups as specified in the 2030 Agenda include children, youth, persons with disabilities, people living with HIV, older persons, indigenous peoples, refugees, internally displaced persons, and migrants. The Bulletin 2016;94:235 of WHO also recognises that individual factors such as sex, age, race, gender ethnicity, displacement, disability and health status can lead to increased vulnerability of individuals and communities which often overlap and can contribute to poor health outcomes.

² Key populations are defined according to WHO as people who inject drugs, men who have sex with men, transgender people, sex workers and people in prisons and other closed settings.



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The current challenges

While the world continues to race against the spread of COVID-19 and its variants, and attempting to address the social and economic impacts, aftermath, and the action needed, we continue to see the stark disparities in COVID-19 commodities and tools and resources available between developed and developing nations for equitable, affordable, and acceptable quality healthcare. Since 2016, the C20 GHWG has consistently alerted successive G20 forums on the importance of strengthening health systems which is critical in achieving the SDGs and reminds that stronger and even more coordinated and financed collective action is needed to halt and reverse the impact from the COVID-19 pandemic, address other health crises, and build upon previous G20 commitments³.

We remind that financial tools and mechanisms without addressing systemic challenges that impede the goal of UHC without addressing the bottlenecks will result in even greater disparities and challenges in achieving 2030 goals in a sustainable manner.

Priority asks and recommendations

- **Human rights-based, equity-focused, and gender transformative responses**

All policies, strategies and implementation must adopt a **human rights-based, people-centred, equity-focused, and gender transformative lens** to overcome the limitations of current responses to health interventions and to address future emergencies. Inadequate response(s) by governments to COVID-19 resulted in the reduction and/or interruption of health, nutrition, and social services. In addition, inequitable, unequal, and punitive measures resulted in infringing human rights disproportionately affecting vulnerable, marginalised, and key communities and groups, exacerbated gender-based violence and further reduced access to sexual reproductive health services and rights services, including access to HPV vaccination, essential maternal and child healthcare, safe abortions.

The need to mitigate and respond to the differential impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on women and girls, older persons, persons with disabilities, indigenous populations, and key and marginalised communities because of disease severity, accessing health services, and various movement restrictions impacting livelihoods is essential towards achieving

healthy lives for all. At the same time, ensuring and empowering the leadership and contributions of women is central to recovery and will contribute towards achieving gender equality.

All of these must be considered and addressed so that the rights and needs of those most affected are respected, protected, and upheld. The elimination of legal, financial, societal, and gender-related barriers that impede access to healthcare is essential for any successful health response and system to ensure equitable access for all. To achieve this, **international human rights standards need to be translated into action and leaders held accountable for their commitments and for delivering health for all.**

- **Meaningful and inclusive participation of communities and civil society organisations**

Transparent, accountable, and inclusive mechanisms and processes must be institutionalised to inherently ensure safe, meaningful, and inclusive participation of communities and civil society at all levels of health governance, including decision-making, implementation, monitoring. This is essential to collectively own, monitor, and drive policies and actions needed to strengthen health and social protection systems.

Communities and civil society have a critical role to play in holding accountable global actors – including governments, multilaterals, and public-private partnerships, to ensure that commitments made on global health are met in a timely and sustainable way. The involvement, inclusion, and adequate resourcing of communities-based and-led, and civil society organisations must be based on principles of equity and rights, and at the same time acknowledge and support the diversity of age, culture, geography, epidemiology, economics, sexual orientation and gender identities.

- **Equitable access to healthcare**

Despite long-standing global commitments, the world has yet to end HIV/AIDS, Tuberculosis (TB) and malaria as epidemics; eradicate neglected tropical diseases; manage non-communicable diseases and address mental health effectively; provide quality services for nutrition⁴, water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH), and sexual reproductive health and rights (SRHR). Clear lessons from these experiences have taught us the

⁴ Good nutrition is a fundamental human right and a core component of the right to health, the impacts of COVID-19 could lead to an additional 168,000 under-five deaths due to malnutrition, 9.3 million more children wasted, and 2.6 million more stunted.

³ A Health Issue Note issued by the G20 Health Working Group states that “The Ministry of Health will continue building also on the legacy of previous G20 presidencies with a specific attention to: Antimicrobial Resistance (AMR), Patient Safety, Healthy Ageing, Universal Health Coverage (UHC), Digital Health and Value based Health Systems

paramount importance that **people's lives must come before profit**. Yet, we are still in a quandary in the face of COVID-19.

The experiences of COVID-19 are not different from those mentioned above, and continue to highlight inequities of accessing quality healthcare and innovative health tools, including infection prevention and control, research and development priorities, and intellectual property rights barriers – including ensuring conditions of transparency and fair access around public funding, sharing of technology and know-how, licensing, and investing in laboratory testing and manufacturing capacities in low- and middle-income countries for effective implementation and scale-up.

It is necessary to recognise that the current research and production of medical products is based on the protection of trade secrets, patents, and monopolies, which hinder equal access and limit global production and distribution capacities and results in high prices for essential medicines, extreme inequality, and leaves the poorest and most vulnerable behind. This is not only a moral failure, but also a failure of political will, and public health protection and promotion. **Global agreements for pandemic responses must be fair for all, evidence-based and -informed, and not based on the ability to pay.**

At the Global Health Summit⁵, world leaders reaffirmed that COVID-19 *'will not be over until all countries are able to bring the disease under control and therefore, large-scale, global, safe, effective and equitable vaccination in combination with appropriate other public health measures remains our top priority'*, and emphasised *'support for global sharing of safe, effective, quality and affordable vaccine doses'*; and to *'enable equitable, affordable, timely, global access to high-quality, safe and effective prevention, detection and response tools'*⁶.

Even as the world is racing to vaccinate against COVID-19, new strains of SARS-CoV-2 continue to threaten progress and risk the effectiveness of existing treatments and vaccines. We call on G20 leaders to fulfil their commitments to equitable access in the Rome Declaration by fully supporting and funding the Access to COVID-19 Tools Accelerator (ACT-A) pillars and CTAP, and the sharing of knowledge, intellectual

⁵ Rome Declaration adopted at the Global Health Summit, 21st May 2021.

⁶ COVID-19 Tools were defined in the Rome Declaration to include vaccines, therapeutics, diagnostics, and personal protective equipment⁷.

property and data, and the proposed World Trade Organisation (WTO) Trade-related Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPs) waiver for vaccines, diagnostics, treatment, and technology transfer to maximise the global production capacity.

Global equitable access to COVID-19 tools is essential for all diseases to end epidemics for everyone everywhere, including in conflict and post-conflict areas and in humanitarian emergencies. Consideration must also be given to ensuring **intellectual property rights and know how do not adversely impact the right to health**, including access to diagnostics, treatment, and relevant commodities for current epidemics including HIV, TB, malaria, neglected tropical diseases, and other non-communicable diseases such as dementia, obesity, cancer, and heart disease, among others. Therefore, **we call on the G20 to learn from the lessons of COVID-19 and translate them into action across all diseases so that all have access to comprehensive, equitable, affordable, and quality health commodities, services, and care.**

- **Global Health Solidarity**

Multilateral cooperation encompassing the principles of solidarity, equity, and sustainability is key to overcoming global health challenges and building resilience. Beyond Global Health Security, **Global Health Solidarity must be the driving force towards achieving the 2030 Agenda to ensure that health solutions, systems and policies do not further exacerbate inequalities and negatively impact the health, nutrition and/or livelihoods of people, especially women and girls in all their diversity, vulnerable groups, marginalised communities, and key populations, based on different cultural and/or socio-economic backgrounds.**

Furthermore, global health solidarity must be guided by rights-based, people-centred and gender transformative approaches to overcome the limitations of current responses to global health emergencies. Migration status and citizenship, or the lack thereof, should not hinder migrants, asylum seekers and refugees' access to nutrition and health services, including SRHR. In addition, it is vital to strengthen pandemic alarm systems through state-to-state partnership at the local, national, regional, and global levels. This is essential to ensure that we leave no one behind.

Acting in solidarity is not just the right thing to do, it is the fastest, most effective and cost-saving way to contain pandemics, in order to save lives, protect health systems, and restore economies.

- **A revitalised and reformed global health architecture**

The global health architecture⁷ has for far too long focused attention only on cosmetic reforms to global health governance, resulting in a mismatch between governance mechanisms and the vulnerability and complexity of global processes⁸. The COVID-19 pandemic clearly exposed how the existing global health infrastructure failed the world when it was needed most, with devastating human and economic consequences⁹.

Governance, financing, technical expertise, and the coordination of the roles of different actors, including international global health institutions should be revisited to fully leverage and maximise the added value of each stakeholder/institution to build quality, equitable, and efficient systems for health while recognising equitable access to quality health care is a key principle and human right which must be implemented and realised. The principle of multilateralism must be reaffirmed to give an equal voice to all stakeholders and ensure a space for meaningful engagement of communities and civil society. This includes the need to **reform and strengthen the World Health Organisation (WHO)**, as the coordinating entity for global health through sustainably financing; strengthening its governance through robust and transparent engagement – including communities and civil society; increased capacities in its normative and technical guidance, coordination and monitoring of global commitments; and adequate authority to implement its mandate to ensure impartiality and enforce action.

A revitalised and reformed global health architecture is needed to strengthen pandemic prevention, preparedness and response towards more resilient national and global health systems and must be achieved through reducing overlaps and costs, as well as inefficient competition between global health institutions. **COVID-19 has provided abundant evidence that in an interconnected world, it is essential for a common response to be adopted globally, but more importantly, that action is taken for coherence of country level responses through sustainable and human rights compliant solutions with respect to health, economic, and environmental priorities for future generations.**

Robust health systems must be people-centred to protect against future pandemics and strengthen responses to existing health issues. **We call for a future health architecture that promotes multi-sectoral action, subsidiarity, integration, equity, innovation, and rights-based and gender-transformative approaches.**

- **Health and Community Systems Strengthening, and Sustainable Financing**

COVID-19 is a wake-up call to the inadequate investments and political commitments needed to realise sustainable and resilient health and community systems that can prepare for, and respond to public health emergencies and related impacts, while continuing to deliver and expand access to quality essential services for all as part of UHC¹⁰. **The financing of the response to health threats and strengthening health and community systems – including the health workforce, is a duty of all countries based on solidarity and equitable access to health services for all populations, especially to those most in need.**

G20 countries and the wider international community must prioritise flexible financing and technical support needed to strengthen the capacity of national health systems and domestic resource mobilisation efforts, by **supporting governments to increase fiscal space for health and prioritise progressive taxation to invest in sustainable and resilient health systems and national health insurance schemes.** Furthermore, financing for health must ensure specific action points to abolish patient fees/direct patient payments, and the reduction and progressive abolition of out-of-pocket expenses¹¹.

Beyond postponing debt servicing requirements, the G20 must support initiatives for debt cancellation in low-income countries to free up resources towards strengthening health, community, and social protection systems. Countries with robust primary healthcare (PHC) systems have been able to better respond to COVID-19 and thus universal, inclusive, quality and adequately financed PHC systems is key to the prevention of and response to pandemics.

¹⁰ Adopted by all member states at the General Conference of the International Labor Organization in 2012.

¹¹ Advocacy Messages, Civil Society Engagement Mechanism for UHC2020. Accessed 27th May 2021.

⁷ Global health architecture is defined as the relationship between the many actors engaged in global health and the processes through which they work together. Kickbusch I, Lister G, Told M, Drager N. Global health diplomacy: Concepts, issues, actors, instruments, fora and cases. New York: Springer; 2012.

⁸ Health architecture: current and future, Health & Education Advice & Resource Team, 2014.

⁹ Duff, Liu, Saavedra et al. "A global public health convention for the 21st century" The Lancet- Public Health, May 5, 2021, page 1

In addition to addressing domestic resource mobilisation, **we call upon donors to meet their commitments towards the 0.7% ODA/GNI target** endorsed in 1970¹² and repeatedly re-endorsed at the highest level at international aid and development conferences. Furthermore, any decision to allocate, withdraw, or reduce ODA must be guided by a [Sustainability and Transition Framework](#), accounting for social and political contexts often masked by economic indicators, such as GNI, to ensure a targeted and poverty-focused approach. In addition, world leaders must also urgently deliver on their pledges made as part of recent replenishments of health-related multilateral mechanisms, such as GAVI, UNITAID, and the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria (Global Fund) to holistically address the support to global health infrastructures to meet the commitments made¹³ to address the COVID-19 pandemic and to achieve 2030 targets.

- **One Health (OH) Approach**

The G20 should recognise the interdependence and strong correlation between human, animal, and environmental health¹⁴ as a preliminary condition for health for all to counter the risk of new zoonotic infectious diseases, a threat already highlighted by WHO more than a decade ago. At the same time, the G20 should not lose sight of the already existing zoonotic diseases which affect over a billion people worldwide. A gender-inclusive OH Approach must be strategically streamlined to improve the health of communities and their environment to include pandemic prevention, and not just preparedness and response. **The G20 must act to increase capacity for implementation and monitoring through a multi-disciplinary approach considering environmental health, agroecology and food systems, veterinary medicine, molecular biology, health economics, trade and the use of modern technologies (including digital tools) are necessary requirements to make this concept operational.** This includes the recognition of intensive livestock production systems, and the role of the global wildlife trade and biodiversity destruction in the emergence and transmission of zoonotic diseases at the human-animal interface. Population growth, rapid urbanisation, environmental degradation including climate change, and the misuse of antimicrobials resulting in drug resistant strains of infectious diseases like multi-drug resistant TB are disrupting the equilibrium of the microbial world.

We call for an approach and solution towards holistic global health systems, and agreed practices and agreements, including on climate change; antimicrobial availability, usage and development; and for a global agreement to develop strengthened regulations to improve farming practices, animal welfare, and the trade in domesticated animals; and at the same time, ending global trade in wild animals and the destruction of natural habitats.

- **Digitalisation of health systems and healthcare**

The future health architecture needs to leverage the full benefits of digital technology and data to achieve public health outcomes that will leave no one behind, while mitigating any potential harm these new technologies may lead to, including widening inequalities. We note that ensuring appropriate privacy and security protections for health data for the sole use of public health purposes will assist in increasing public trust in healthier ecosystems. This will help countries deliver health and development solutions everywhere, and increase capacity and preparedness for rapid, effective, and quality responses while ensuring the continuity of essential and PHC

COVID-19 has accelerated the already gaping digital divide that prevents billions of people from accessing essential services, staying connected, and fully participating in the digital economy. Across all countries and contexts, there is extraordinary potential to leverage digital technologies and data to increase access to healthcare, build strong and resilient systems, and accelerate progress towards UHC. **The G20 has an opportunity to invest in an equitable, inclusive and responsible digital transformation of health, particularly in low- and middle-income countries,** and connecting every health facility and household, and strengthening national health information systems, including civil registration and vital statistics (CRVS) systems¹⁵. In addition, digitalisation of health data would provide the needed primary mechanism to access timely and transparent data during outbreaks, to prevent them from becoming public health emergencies of international concern (PHEIC), as we are experiencing with COVID-19.

¹² The 0.7% ODA/GNI target – a history, OECD website, accessed 15th May 2021.

¹³ A/RES/74/2. Para 45 of the "Political Declaration of the High-Level Meeting on Universal Health Coverage", 23rd September 2019.

¹⁴ This includes climate change which not only exacerbates existing disease threats, but also food and water insecurity threatening to undermine the decades of development progress, and where extreme weather events overwhelm national health systems.

¹⁵ To fund this digital transformation of health systems, donors in particular of G20 countries should reaffirm their commitment to The Principles for Donor Alignment for Digital Health launched at the World Health Summit in Berlin on 16th October 2018

The G20 should also commit to work with WHO and other stakeholders to develop and adopt **a global framework on the use of health data as a public good** whilst protecting individual rights and the confidentiality of personal data. Such a framework is necessary to ensure policy makers and researchers can prevent, detect, and respond to emerging health risks, while also leveraging digital transformation to improve and enhance healthcare, and be developed through an inclusive process and grounded in globally agreed principles of equity and human rights. There is a fundamental need for the G20 to closely govern the role of, and investments in Big Tech¹⁶ so that their practices are aligned to, and do not undermine global health goals, equity, and human rights.

COVID-19 has exacerbated and made more visible the weaknesses in health and social protection systems, and it is ever more important that health and relevant policies are inclusive and equitable for everybody, especially for the most vulnerable and marginalised populations.

We stand at a crossroad where there are opportunities of making substantial evolutions needed in health and related policies and systems. **This must be realised through a clear and concrete roadmap to translate the “Rome Declaration of Principles”** into action, and to achieve and actualise UHC through strengthened, people-centred, and digitally enabled health and community systems so that no one is left behind.

¹⁶ The Big Tech, also known as the Tech Giants are the largest and most dominant companies in the information technology industry, namely Amazon, Apple, Facebook, Google, Microsoft, TenCent, Jio, Alibaba, Baidu, and others.





3

CLIMATE BIODIVERSITY AND ENERGY TRANSITION



Relevant G20 commitments

The climate crisis is accelerating and causing unprecedented phenomena while the enormous risk of collapse of the ecosystems that sustain life on Earth becomes more and more real. Both global warming and biodiversity loss also exacerbate pre-existing problems and other issues, such as social and health problems. Never before have we seen how the pattern of human life and consumption has put the Planet as we know it at risk, and with it the lives of billions of people. The International Civil Society appeals to all countries of the world, in particular to the major economies of the world meeting for the G20, to change course and to take as a compass the PREVENTION of future crises and to put all their energies in addressing climate crisis and dramatic biodiversity loss, avoiding tipping points: the future not only of millions of lives and of all economies, but the human civilization itself depends on it.

Time has come for the G20 to take its respective responsibility on the biggest challenges facing our planet. As the COVID-19 health crisis continues, climate and biodiversity action has been postponed from 2020 but the activities and incentives that threaten them both have not. Despite widespread calls for a “green recovery”, the G20 - accounting for almost 80% of global emissions - has largely failed to incorporate low-carbon energy and nature-positive policies into COVID stimulus packages. Climate targets are already insufficient, and are coming late with regards to what science tells us to stay below 1.5°C. Last year saw some of the biggest polluting industries benefit from bailout funds and rollback in environmental regulations, and some \$170 billion in public money commitments have been allocated to fossil fuel-intensive sectors, subsidizing production and consumption of fossil fuels at home and abroad (IISD, G20 Scorecard 2020).

The environmental crisis is interdependent and intersectoral with social injustice, gender-based and ethnicity inequalities, and as such needs to be addressed. Transitioning from fossil fuels to a sustainable, resilient and low-carbon society will require long-term commitments and significant changes in the way our economic system is structured.

The G20 must lead by example to rebuild trust, setting a clear plan of action to phase-out coal, end investment in new oil and gas and scaling up climate finance. We are not separate from each other, not just as human beings but also as human beings and Nature.

The current challenges

The One Planetary Health - One welfare principle should be central in G20 decision-making. However, prevention is currently insufficiently considered by G20 countries. We cannot afford the costs of inaction. The pandemic has amplified and exposed staggering inequalities within and among countries, revealing the consequences of odd, uneven and imbalanced financial architectures across all regions which have resulted in structural under-investment of stewardship for the environment.

The most vulnerable people already gravely impacted by the climate and biodiversity crises are at risk of being pushed into further uncertainty and poverty. The coronavirus **global health crisis** poses a major challenge but also an unprecedented opportunity to introduce policies and actions that accelerate the shift towards a just, equitable and green transition, through decarbonizing our economies and embedding nature more explicitly into our systems. The Dasgupta Review made it clear that a prosperous and resilient future for all depends on transforming our economic systems to embed and appropriately value nature.

We are facing an unprecedented confluence of crises that requires the strongest levels of multilateral cooperation and international solidarity. The G20 must ensure that the health, climate, nature and social agendas move forward together with the breadth and urgency required, leaving no one behind.

Priority asks and recommendations

CLIMATE AMBITION

Climate commitments are still highly insufficient and are coming late with regards to what science tells us to stay below 1.5°C. To halt and reverse today's catastrophic loss of nature, economy-wide emissions reductions must be urgently conducted in parallel to protecting, restoring and sustainably managing biodiversity. With current climate policies, the world is on track for an average global temperature increase of 2.9°C by the end of the century. We urge the G20 to:

- Commit to concrete pathways with short term milestones to contribute their respective fair share domestic emissions reductions to support the achievement of the collective goal to reduce global emissions by 45% below 2010 levels by 2030, and net zero emissions globally by 2050 - all in line with preventing 1.5 degrees Celsius of temperature increased from pre-industrial levels compatible with biodiversity conservation, given it is the only way to reach the 1.5°C goal without jeopardizing the ecological stability and food production capacity of both land and sea.
- Lead, scale up and implement new and ambitious climate **commitments** in line with the 1.5°C temperature goal. Developed countries must have stronger leadership in this regard in line with their respective capabilities.
- Long-Term Low Greenhouse Gas Emission Development Strategies (**LTS**), nations should further evaluate and review how their national/regional plans have prioritised that key target groups "should not be left behind". G20 nations must lead the way and show that not only targets are improved but implementation on the ground is happening.
- G20 should cooperate to mitigate emissions of **short-lived climate pollutants** (SL-CPs), including methane, hydrofluorocarbons (HFCs), and black carbon.
- Commit with political signals and mandates to strengthen multilateral cooperation and cooperative climate negotiations and a successful COP 26.
- Make sure that all measures taken are gender-responsive.

CLIMATE FINANCE

Climate finance is a key issue when it comes to climate action, and collectively G20 countries have the capacities and the responsibility to:

- Swift action on pre-2020 climate finance commitments and going beyond by supporting the efforts of developing and least developed countries.
- Unlock the agreed and overdue \$100 billion/year commitment to support adaptation to climate change with a 50/50 split between funding for mitigation and adaptation. Funding for adaptation should prioritize the most vulnerable countries and communities in society - including women, migrants, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, and youth.

- Make climate risk disclosure mandatory for companies and financial institutions on the basis of the TCFD work
- Include nature related risks and impacts, endorsing the Task-Force for Nature-Related Financial Disclosures (TNFD)

ENERGY

Energy has always been a central point of development. However, the forms and amounts of energy generated and used by G20 countries, represents a threat to the survival of our planet and is a source of climate change, environmental degradation and even the loss of biodiversity. It is therefore essential to solve the problems related to energy for a more sustainable development through the deployment of renewable energies, and energy efficiency in order to accelerate the decarbonization in a rational way in all sectors, and act in a way that does not generate new impacts. We ask the G20 to:

- **End fossil Fuel subsidies** as soon as possible and introduce carbon pricing in a rational way to promote a rapid but just decarbonization of the economies.
- Phase out **coal** by 2030.
- Carry out a **just and equitable transition**. As the world increasingly uses more clean, renewable, and efficient energy sources, workers' and communities' rights and livelihoods must be supported through sufficient social interventions and other necessary actions.
- Put forward an ambitious action curtailing their Fossil Fuel dependency with immediate ban on **further exploration** of fossil fuel reserves and enhanced cooperation to phase out primitive energy sources such as **coal**, defining a path to complete phase out of all fossil fuels before 2050
- Avoid false solutions that can have negative impacts on the environment, or represent a risk for the emissions reductions, such as Nuclear energy, Carbon Capture and Storage technologies and the use of Fossil Gas as a transition Fuel.

BIODIVERSITY

The COVID-19 pandemic has shown that halting the degradation and loss of natural ecosystems is not only a public health priority but also critical for sustaining humanity's most vital safety net, stabilizing the climate and achieving the sustainable development agenda. The adoption of a post-2020 Global Biodiversity Framework at the CBD COP15,

2021 will provide a critical window of opportunity for the G20 to catalyse global political will and mobilize action on stopping nature's dangerous decline and to better connect biodiversity and climate high-level ambitions. We ask for the G20 to work towards the adoption of a transformative Global Biodiversity Framework that:

- Addresses the root causes and indirect drivers of biodiversity loss, outlining a series of goals and targets to address the pressures of unsustainable production and consumption on our ecosystems - especially by reducing the footprint of industrial agriculture and fisheries by supporting transition processes with low socio-economic impact.
- Protects at least 30% of the planet's land and oceans by 2030, deemed by scientists to be the minimum area needed to halt biodiversity loss.
- Includes a rights-based approach, guaranteeing and protecting the rights of Indigenous Peoples and Local Communities (IPLCs).
- Recognizes the imperative of conserving and restoring ecosystem integrity to biodiversity conservation, climate change mitigation and adaptation, and the prevention of future zoonotic pandemics.
- Puts in place effective mechanisms to ensure full participation in all decision-making processes regarding biodiversity, and any projects related to its conservation and restoration.

Significant financial commitments are required to tackle the interconnected biodiversity and climate crisis and deliver sustainable development, whilst avoiding undesirable trade-offs for nature, climate, and people. We ask for the G20 to:

- Strengthen the linkages between the CBD and the UNFCCC to align ambitious goals and targets, maximize synergies between the two processes and accelerate implementation.
- Protect and build on pre-COVID-19 conservation investments, strengthening the enforcement of environmental regulations which better legislate for and implement biodiversity and ecosystem protection.
- Invest in large-scale conservation and restoration efforts to halt the degradation and loss of natural ecosystems and to secure ecosystem services benefitting society and future generations, including through bolstering natural resilience to climate change.
- Prioritize the protection of the most carbon-dense and biodiversity-rich natural ecosystems on land and at sea.

- Invest and promote more resilient and sustainable agriculture everywhere, like agro-ecology.
- Put strict limits and regulate the inter-country trade in wild animals and wild animal products not included in CITES annexes, and draw up a list of intensive livestock farming conditions under which they present significant risks of transmitting zoonoses.

OCEANS

Without serious changes, the world is going to deepen the environmental gap in the future, especially when it comes to oceans and seas. It is necessary for all institutions to respect the law of the sea and international conventions on it; as well as, plead by environmental organizations, to reduce the waste affecting the environmental balance. Based on future studies, the world will experience a suffocating environmental crisis due to the madness of factories' waste and their greed in the illegal use of internationally banned substances and the depletion of the environment and its real wealth.

INDIGENOUS PEOPLE

Indigenous people have inextricable legal and ancestral responsibilities to the land and ocean. Threatened by irrevocable extractive acts by inequities in indigenous status of environmental stewardship and familial guardianship. There must be a more immediate act of understanding, solidarity and consultation of indigenous rights and stewardship when it comes to the environment.

ADDRESSING VULNERABILITY

Vulnerable population groups, especially islands, are at risk from extreme weather events and the availability of the freshwater needed to sustain populations groups. For many, climate change migration is not an option, and subsequent relocation and displacement is now certain. Amongst indigenous communities, the agenda is framed in ethical and political terms; and environmental, social and climate justice is sought to balance the degradation experienced by marginalised populations.

At this point in time, there are no international laws/instruments for the protection of climate change migrants. The International Organisation for Migration (IOM) indicated that the Global Compact for Safe, Orderly and Regular Migration (1988) is an opportunity for

member states to acknowledge the climatic and environmental drivers, multi-causality of migration and impacts of migration in the environment. G20 countries must develop focused global, regional and national dialogues on climate change migrants and their families and address properly this issue that can affect millions in the future.

G20 nations must also help initiate the establishment of structures and technologies in developing countries for in-depth scientific research and forecasting of climate and other natural disasters to effectively combat the effects of climate change and contribute globally to proper Loss and Damage programs.

CITIES

A very large part of the population in the world lives in cities, and it is projected to keep growing. G20 countries must commit to the proper development of human settlements and further promote a circular economy, and strengthen the Zero Waste policy. To that effect, cities must put in place more effective mechanisms to study and assess the environmental impacts of urban development projects, programs and policies in order to make cities more resilient and sustainable.

TRANSPARENCY

All these commitments should come accompanied with transparent and comprehensive information on the tasks taken in order to achieve them. Data about climate financing, advances of already taken commitments around each of the targeted areas of work, or green recovery plans should be open by default and, if possible, data should be open as open data for better accountability.

4

**GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP,
EDUCATION****Relevant G20 commitments**

G20 Education Ministers' Declaration (June 22, 2021) re-affirmed the fundamental role of education for inclusive economic growth, equity, equality, human dignity, social inclusion, and wellbeing.

The Education Ministers recognized the importance of putting education at the center of the political agenda as part of the recovery from the present global crisis to build back better and with resilience for the future.

They reiterated that the right to education is a human right and the basis for the realization of all other rights, in line with the United Nations 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the 2018 G20 Education Ministers' Declaration.

They recognized the importance of advancing discussions and initiatives to achieve progress on Sustainable Development Goal 4 of the 2030 Agenda, to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all. These include initiatives promoting gender equality and fighting all kinds of discrimination.

They also recognized the importance of enabling all people, particularly children and young people, to acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development and active citizenship including, among others, through education for sustainable development.

They reaffirm the commitment to mitigating the impact of the pandemic on education systems in order to ensure access to quality education and educational continuity, as affirmed in the G20 Education Ministers' Statement on COVID-19 of June 27, 2020 and the G20 Education Ministers' Communiqué of September 5, 2020.

They reiterated the commitment to not leave anyone behind by providing access to quality education and a safe return to the classroom to all through efficient and effective stimulus and recovery programs. They reaffirmed the importance of the coordination between education and labour policies to facilitate youth transition from school to work, in line with the G20 Education Ministers' Declaration of September 5, 2018.

The current challenges

UN in its last report on the SDGs declared that the impact of the COVID-19 pandemic on schooling is a **“generational catastrophe”** (*UN Policy Brief on Education and COVID*) and the Secretary General António Guterres strengthened it, saying *“that [it] could waste untold human potential, undermine decades of progress, and exacerbate entrenched inequalities”*.

Before the pandemic, progress made was already slow and insufficient to reach the SDG 4 education targets. School closures brought by the pandemic have had devastating consequences for children’s learning and wellbeing. Hundreds of millions of children and youth are falling behind in their learning, which will have long-term impacts. One year into the COVID-19 crisis, 2 in 3 students worldwide are still affected by full or partial school closures. The most vulnerable children and those unable to access remote learning are at an increased risk of never returning to school, and even being forced into child marriage or child labour.

It is estimated that an additional 101 million children and youth (from grades 1 to 9) fell below the minimum reading proficiency level due to COVID-19 in 2020, which wiped out the education gains achieved over the last 20 years.

Recovery could occur by 2024, but only if exceptional efforts are devoted to the task through remedial and catch-up strategies.

Just before the pandemic struck, 53% of young people were completing secondary school globally, but only 29% in sub-Saharan Africa. Depending on the duration of school closures, which is causing learning losses and affecting the motivation to be in school, and the extent to which poverty might increase, which add to the obstacles faced by disadvantaged children, the growth in school completion rates may slow down or even reverse. Pre-COVID-19 data from 76 countries and territories (mostly low and middle income) for the period 2012-2020, indicate that around 7 in 10 children aged 3 and 4 are developmentally on track, with no significant differences by child’s sex. However, many young children are unable to attend early childhood education due to the pandemic and are therefore now entirely reliant on their caregivers for nurturing care. Unsafe conditions, negative interactions with caregivers and lack of educational opportunities during the early years can lead to irreversible outcomes, affecting a child’s potential for the remainder of his/her life.

Recovery could occur by 2024, but only if exceptional collective leadership, targeted re-

sources and global efforts are devoted to the mission through aggressive and bold remedial and restorative reforms.

Before the pandemic, 258 million children and youth were already out of school, 132 million were girls.

In only two-thirds of countries are girls as likely to be in primary school as boys. At the secondary level, inequalities increase dramatically as girls fail to transition; less than half of countries have achieved gender parity in lower secondary enrolment, dropping to just a quarter in upper secondary.

Covid-19 has been having a huge impact on children’s education and threatens to reverse gains made in girls’ education: 11 million girls are at risk of never returning to school and this not only affects their learning but has a potential dramatic impact on their health, protection, and wellbeing. Girls have been disproportionately affected by the Covid-19 pandemic which acted as an accelerator of inequalities and is reversing the achievements of the last decades. For the first time in 20 years, girls today are more likely to marry as children, more likely to have their education permanently cut short and more likely to face the risks associated with pregnancy during adolescence.

Due to the Covid-19 pandemic children in low-income countries in the world have lost up to 20% of their lifetime days in school due to the COVID-19 pandemic – with conflict adding to school closures in some countries. The trend shows that the percentage of lifetime schooling lost for girls is generally greater than for boys: on average, girls in poorer countries missed 22% more of their total school lives than boys.

On financing gap: UNESCO estimates that there is a US\$148 billion annual financing gap in low- and lower-middle income countries to achieve Sustainable Development Goal 4 (SDG4), to ensure inclusive and equitable quality education for all by 2030. Additional costs due to COVID-19 related school closures risk increasing this financing gap by up to one-third, or US\$30 to US\$45 billion. However, investing now in remediation strategies to address head-on a potential vicious circle of repetition, disengagement and eventual dropout, and in re-enrolment programmes could reduce this additional cost by as much as 75%. Governments can choose to invest in re-enrolment and, especially, remediation strategies to address head-on a potential vicious circle of repetition, disengagement and eventual dropout.

What emerged very clearly from our C20 EWG is that there is the need to invest in education so as to affect the above mentioned inequalities and restore equality of opportunity.

The C20 Education Working Group acknowledged the profound global impact of the pandemic on education, and it strongly recommends the following key points for addressing education, schooling and learning. Increased investment in education should close the pre-pandemic educational gaps, support the ongoing delivery of high-quality education, enable learners to progress through their schooling, and assist with effective transitions into post-pandemic recovery.

The C20 Education Working Group recognized that this pandemic phase of “reset” also allows for reforms that should address educational inequities and rebuild opportunities for educational equalities. However, the budgets are hollowed out by a recession and the appropriate diversion of public spending to health care and economic recovery.

Priority asks and recommendations

The C20 Education WG calls on G20 governments to promote a strong commitment to the achievement of SDG4 by prioritizing education in their recovery plans and supporting lower income countries’ educational plans.

To do that, it is important to achieve these key points:

- Close the education financing gap.
- Use Lifelong learning to build a democratic culture: protection of common goods and human rights.
- Enhance Education 4.0: Global citizenship as the main transversal competence to be citizens of the future.
- Increase transformative education at the service of sustainable development: care of planet and earth’s inhabitants in the pandemic era.
- Promote gender equality and women’s and girls’ empowerment in and through education.

Success in these aims can only be achieved collaboratively, involving states, civil society organizations, trade unions, labour unions and employer associations. We call on the G20 to take a leading role in coordinating international efforts to achieve a collaborative and progressive education and a labour reform.

- **Close the education financing gap**

We need to close the education financing gap doing all the best in investing resources to support countries in responding to the crisis and prioritizing education, through a combination of additional resources to be committed and money to be freed up. To realize this point is important to fulfill the 0.7% global commitment on ODA, with the progressive commitment to 15% of ODA, to increase education financing. This is feasible through increased bilateral aid commitments for basic education and through multilateral commitments, related to a supplementary IDA budget (supplementing World Bank IDA19 balance or contributing to an early replenishment for IDA20 - 25 million USD in the next two years). It is also necessary to achieve the extension of the DSSI at least until the end of 2022 and the expansion of the Common Framework on Debt Treatments to middle income countries (see the C20 finance WG messages).

It is critical to mobilize the necessary resources for strengthening education and other public services. States must guarantee the right to education and invest in quality education for all. The privatization of education, shadow education, and public-private partnerships in education must be regulated and monitored to ensure that education remains a public good and not a for-profit venture.

We also call for the provision of a more urgent and substantial debt relief package that includes debt cancellation for low-income and the least developed, and heavily indebted countries, and the freed-up resources can be used to strengthen and expand public services, including education, health, and social protection.

- **Use Lifelong learning to build a democratic culture: protection of common goods and human rights**

It is fundamental to recognize education itself as a common good and include within the field of human rights the protection of academic freedom.

As far as this point is concerned, we must take into consideration that children, youth, and non-literate adults should receive more attention if there is the intention of funding change and development. The system of sending help across to the African Nations through sitting governments has blocked the gains of the action, because often these helps do not reach the grassroots.

So, it is important to fund local initiatives not only through political set up but through sincere humanitarian ventures that must dedicate more time in learning the culture and languages of the local communities. There should not be hesitation to use democracy and human-rights as relevant contents in the formal non-formal and informal educational institutions.

Education should not only focus on increasing learners' employability, but also on equipping them with the necessary life skills and fostering values of peace, democracy, active citizenship, and respect for diversity, human rights, and the planet. In so doing education will produce and develop empowered leaders who have the necessary abilities and capacities to adapt and address the ever-evolving challenges in the world, including poverty, inequality, racism, discrimination, conflict and the climate crisis.

- **Enhance Education 4.0: Global citizenship as the main transversal competence to be citizens of the future**

When crisis strikes, it is essential that we work together to confront issues that we have in common. This means thinking of ourselves as being citizens of the world, as well as of our nations and immediate localities, and considering these identities as mutual and co-constitutive.

As far as this point is concerned, we call on G20 to foster the dissemination of the concept of global citizenship education at the level of formal, non-formal and informal education, as a pre-requisite for the acquisition of each SDGs and to introduce this concept in every level of education, training and communication so as to prevent any form of nationalism and discrimination.

- **Increase transformative education at the service of the sustainable development: care of planet and earth's inhabitants in the pandemic era, included migrants and refugees**

GCE is a driver to affirm and promote social and sustainable economy. We call on G20 to support programs based on transformative education, promoting a lifelong learning, able to combine social, environmental, and economic sustainability.

G20 countries should support children back to school in their own countries, but also support other national governments (in low- and middle-income countries) to do this.

That will mean investing in:

- Flexible and inclusive distance learning programs, using a range of modalities including digital learning, interactive radio instruction and printed learning materials, with a focus on reaching the most marginalized student, included migrants, refugees and displaced people. These programs should support early learning, mental health and psychosocial support, child protection and public health objectives, and address harmful gender norms.
- Transferring money to mitigate the impact of the pandemic on households' incomes and livelihoods.
- Catching-up classes to support students' re-enter education, prepare them for blended - online and offline learning; develop programs for continuing learning of those who have dropped out of school.
- Improving water, sanitation, and hygiene (WASH) facilities and non-pharmaceutical interventions in schools, particularly ventilation to reduce the risk of transmission of COVID-19 in schools and in the community and to ensure sustainable school re-openings.
- Ensuring that the teachers are adequately supported, protected and trained to manage distance learning programming with the appropriate resources and guidance.
- Educate to the collective well-being for the respect of everybody's health.
- Invest in community learning centers and other community-based education that are able to reach the most marginalized learners and support their capacities to provide blended learning.

- **Promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in and through education**

From the last UN report on the SDGs achievement we learnt that *disparities in access to education and learning outcomes remain persistent across a range of education indicators. For example, there were still only 92 literate women aged 15 years or older for every 100 literate men of the same age in 2019. Almost half of countries with recent data did not meet gender parity in primary completion, and only a handful of countries demonstrate parity in tertiary enrolment ratios.*

Gender inequalities are still deep-rooted in every society.

Women suffer from lack of access to decent work and face occupational segregation and gender wage gaps. Under-represented in political and economic decision-making processes, in many situations, they are also denied access to basic education and health care and they are victims of violence and discrimination.

G20 governments must engage themselves for the elimination of this discrimination against women and girls, supporting the empowerment of women, and achievement of equality between women and men as partners and beneficiaries of development, human rights, humanitarian action and peace and security.

For this point, we call on G20 to promote gender equality and women's and girls' empowerment in and through education.

It means:

- Close the gender gap in education and invest in girls, removing structural barriers to their education;
- Dismantle gender stereotypes to ensure gender equality in the public and private sphere, also through school programs;
- Provide comprehensive sexuality education so that students can make informed decisions regarding their sexual and reproductive health;
- Ensure that schools and universities are safe spaces for women, girls and LGBTQI+ population, that they are not at risk of GBV in schools or on the way to school;
- Ensure accessibility and inclusion of children and youth with disabilities in schools and universities;
- Ensure that the right to education is respected also in conflict, post-conflict and humanitarian settings and respect the Safe Schools Declaration;
- Ensure boys' education to prevent them from being recruited as child soldiers;
- Ensure girls' education to prevent early and unwanted pregnancies and early marriage, invest in nursery schools also as tool to promote women's rights and their access to the labour market;
- Educate boys concerning female equality and the male responsibility to respect physical/sexual boundaries.
- Provide gender-just skills education for decent work of marginalized women and ensure an ecosystem support such as access to financial support, access to day-care and access to documents.

We ask that G20 recognize those provisions in education and employment are critical during and post the global health emergency. The lessons from previous global crises indicate the need to tailor policies to those who are most vulnerable in society, through education and employment. We remind G20 Leaders of this year's G20 Presidency mantra of "Realizing Opportunities for the 21st Century", which can only be achieved by putting education at the top of the G20 agenda, leaving no-one behind.



ph: ben-parker



5

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Relevant G20 commitments

“The negative consequences of corruption on economies, trade and development, corruption continues to represent a threat to global growth and financial stability, undermining the rule of law, destroying public trust, hampering cross-border investment and trade, and distorting fair competition and resource allocation.”

2021 G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Accountability Report

Therefore the G20 has prioritised the need to:

- “Focus on the effectiveness of the measures taken by G20 countries in meeting their commitments as reflected in the High-Level Principles (HLPs) endorsed by G20 Leaders, with the aim of being as compliant as possible with the agreed Principles.”

2021 G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group Accountability Report

- “Adapt its working methods and mechanisms to facilitate as much as possible the implementation of past G20 commitments and increase the impact of the anti-corruption agenda, as well as developing further targeted actions where the G20 can offer significant added value, ideally without duplicating work already done by other institutions and with a view to further strengthening a fruitful, engaging cooperation with partner organizations, institutions and bodies (UNODC, OECD, IMF, World Bank and FATF), and supporting and encouraging them, as well as others, in their outstanding efforts to prevent and fight corruption.”

Finally, as noted in the G20 Anti-Corruption Ministers Meeting, Ministerial Communiqué 2020:

- “We recall our stance of “zero tolerance towards corruption, zero loopholes in institutions and zero barriers in action.” Leading by example, we welcome potential future work on topics such as gender and corruption, corruption in times of crisis, the measurement of corruption, the protection of whistleblowers, and new and emerging avenues of corruption, as well as all other areas referenced in the G20 AntiCorruption Action Plan.”

ACCOUNTABILITY OF THE G20

It is increasingly clear that G20 commitments on anti-corruption issues are not met with sufficient efforts to ensure implementation. The biggest accountability issue around these issues is the G20 process itself. Since the G20 ACWG was formed in 2010, there have been more than 100 commitments¹ made by G20 governments on anti-corruption, but few of these have been fully implemented². This is undermining trust in the G20 and calling the credibility of the process into question. The G20 ACWG should push for a more robust G20 accountability framework and place a clear focus on the implementation of existing commitments through three clear steps:

1. Improved target setting and reporting through work plans matched with clear goals and timelines, which are then matched with formalized, consistent annual reports on progress against targets at the country level. G20 countries should follow-through on the revised approach for accountability reporting (as adopted in 2020) and strengthen the process by including a process for assessment of implementation as well as a peer review mechanism to bolster accountability. As outlined previously³, in the case of non-compliance, countries should report clearly on challenges faced, lessons learned and ways forward.

2. Greater engagement with civil society through ongoing consultations with CSOs in-country before the G20, sharing relevant outcome documents with civil society in a timely manner, and through deeper engagement of CSOs in G20 Working Group meetings, including through the presence of C20 representatives in all discussions. As noted in previous C20 recommendations: [Argentina, Japan, Saudi Arabia](#) - the G20 ACWG also needs to engage more closely with other G20 Working Groups to ensure that anti-corruption is considered as a cross-cutting issue.

3. Better communication by building on the Argentine commitment to put all G20 documents in an easily accessible page on the G20 website. We applaud UNODC's creation of a digital resource library⁴ detailing all previous and current ACWG documents. We encourage the G20 to make these resources searchable by topic, theme, issue too allow for effective oversight, analysis and engagement.

4. Accountability and monitoring through collective commitment to update, develop and broaden the G20 Accountability Tracker so that progress against commitments can be independently verified by expert civil society.

The current challenges

While some countries are slowly starting to recover from the devastating effects wreaked by COVID-19 on human life, economies, healthcare and social systems, we are only now starting to comprehend the multi-generational legacy that over a year of consistent threats against openness, transparency and anti-corruption⁵ will have on the post pandemic world.

Corruption, secrecy and organized crime have thrived in a world where vast amounts of resources have been quickly mobilized bypassing long-established anti-corruption enforcement mechanisms, processes and best-practice. While some countries are starting to recover, in states where corruption practices have become institutionalized, citizens are being held to ransom, supporting institutionalized corruption to maintain basic government functionality. As a result, the extensive misappropriation of funds that were intended for vital recovery efforts are putting increasing strain on the attainment of equitable and sustainable global development.

The key aims of the Italian G20 Presidency are centered around three broad, interconnected pillars of action: People, Planet, and Prosperity. Within these pillars, there is a focus on ensuring a swift international response to the pandemic through the provision of equitable, worldwide access to resources which relies on: reducing inequality; women's empowerment, supporting young people and protecting the most vulnerable.

This is impossible without directly confronting corruption, building accountability of governments and businesses, and supporting values-based decision-making.

Today, more than ever, it is essential for citizens to participate in an informed manner to demand timely accountability from governments. Not only to prevent and condemn the misappropriation of public funds, but also to continue guaranteeing their rights and to ensure the design of forward-looking responses.

To this end, it is vital that opportunities for participation, including access to justice, be guaranteed, improved, strengthened and promoted, and that civic space remains open.

¹ <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/compliance/commitments.html>

² <https://www.transparency.org/en/publications/g20-leaders-or-laggards>

³ https://www.transparency.org/files/content/feature/2019_G20_Accountability_Transparency_International.pdf

⁴ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/corruption/g20-anti-corruption-resources/by-thematic-area.html>

⁵ <https://www.u4.no/topics/covid-19-and-corruption/basics>

The G20 must go much further in implementing past anti-corruption commitments, bolster accountability and demonstrate a clear commitment to this agenda going forward. The C20 believes now is the time for the G20 to take important steps to improve accountability and fight corruption holistically. This means addressing organized crime, corruption in sports and the opportunities for corruption sparked by the outbreak of emergencies like the current COVID-19 crisis.

Priority asks and recommendations

CORRUPTION AND ORGANIZED CRIME

There is an urgent need for a clear and detailed definition of organized crime (and mafia-type organizations). Having a clear understanding of and alignment on the different types of crimes and organizations will help improve efforts to counter their influence. A series of previous commitments⁶ made by the G20 are relevant in this context and the G20 should emphasise measures that strengthen existing commitments and ensure their effective implementation across G20 countries.

The G20 rightly focuses on the interconnectedness of organized crime and the need for a strongly aligned transnational strategy to counter its effect: no country is immune as each plays a different role in the chain of organized crimes. All countries are responsible and all G20 members should be requested to adhere to the Protocols supplementing UNTOC⁷.

Recommendations to the G20:

- Enable effective cross-border investigations and the exchange of information and cooperation between law enforcement agencies including those of Indigenous People. This can be achieved, for example, through promoting the use of joint and international investigation teams as well as the adoption of centralised bank account registers to facilitate the monitoring of cross-border financial transactions linked to organised crime groups. In particular, G20 countries must strengthen regulatory and supervisory regimes for financial and designated non-financial businesses and professions (DNFBPs) including: tax professionals, lawyers, financial advisors, banks and financial institutions, company formation agents, register agents, notaries, business trustees, trust and corporate service providers and other providers of tax evasion schemes.

⁶ <https://images.transparencycdn.org/images/2021-G20-Position-Paper-Transnational-corruption-economic-organised-crime.pdf>

⁷ <https://www.unodc.org/unodc/en/organized-crime/intro/UNTOC.html>

Countries should address the problems these enablers pose by:

- Promoting awareness of these enablers.
 - Distributing information on the role of these enablers and methods for identifying their actions.
 - Developing legal and regulatory framework to disrupt the actions of these enablers.
 - Develop strategies to deter the actions of enablers.
 - Promote both domestic and international efforts to address the actions of enablers.
- Agree on standards of enhanced due diligence and operational integrity and commit to greater transparency by publishing details on golden visa and golden passport schemes including the names and original nationality of individuals awarded citizenship. Also, set up mechanisms for information-sharing between G20 countries concerning rejected applicants to prevent visa- and passport shopping.
 - Ensure transparent, open-data in the entire process of awarding public contracts, by providing training and support to officials working with the award of these contracts. Publish a public register of all companies awarded contracts.
 - Promoting a revision of existing global standards, in particular the recommendations of the Financial Action Task Force⁸ (FATF), to require for the jurisdictions to establish central, public beneficial ownership registers of legal entities.
 - Ensure that all whistleblowers, as human rights defenders, are provided protection regardless of whether they are from the private or public sector, or the contractual relationships they may have. Facilitate reporting through the establishment of varied, confidential and anonymous gender sensitive channels and ensure professional incident management processes.
 - Enable stronger participation of civil society in tackling corruption related to organized crime by:
 - Fulfilling UDHR by ensuring accessible freedom of information/right to information laws, using digital methods for citizen reporting and whistleblowing, supporting civil society initiatives, and upholding freedoms of expression, association and assembly. Whistleblowers must be provided protection regardless of whether they are from the private or public sector, or the

⁸ <https://www.fatf-gafi.org/>

contractual relationship they have. Whistleblowers should be provided support in case of retaliation through protection against civil or criminal liability, the reverse burden of proof standard that exclude consideration of whistleblowers' motives, penalties and individual accountability for retaliation, compensation for damages for the reporting person who faced retaliation including attorneys fees, exempt whistleblowers from the application of loser-pays rules in retaliation cases, interim relief, and physical protection.

- Enforcing UNCAC Article 13, which is blocked by some governments: "Ensure participation of civil society and non-governmental organisations in the prevention of and fight against corruption" with "measures ensuring public access to information and participation in educational programmes."

CORRUPTION IN SPORTS

"Corruption in sports is a multifaceted issue which demands an international, multi-stakeholder and pragmatic approach as well as political commitment." (G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2019 – 2021).

The sports sector- both professional and non-professional- is worth billions, providing fertile ground for corruption and mismanagement, which spreads beyond just the players and teams and also encompasses the large-scale infrastructure projects⁹ that are an integral part of global sporting events. Most recently there has been an increase in transnational sports crime and corruption, where sporting activities have acted as a channel for illicitly gained resources. Since 2013 (and the Russia and subsequently the 2017 German Presidency¹⁰) the G20 has included reference to corruption in sport as being an issue of concern. However, since then, specific commitments around sports integrity have failed to produce real change or improve transparency, accountability and participation.

In an effort to clarify and highlight specific issues, the C20 ACWG has divided corruption in sports into two main issues, related to infrastructure and match fixing and transnational organized crime.

With regard to infrastructure, the C20 recommends that the G20 ACWG:

- Use open data technology and ICT to prompt stakeholder cooperation by, leveraging the use of internationally recognised disclosure standards such as the OCDS and the

OC4IDS to identify and manage integrity risks, including in supply chains. This was effectively used in Ukraine¹¹, combining the OC4IDS with digital analytical tools which allowed for the disclosed data to be analysed in real time, highlighting red flags in the procurement and delivery of infrastructure. Embedding the standard¹² in the context of mega sport events can help ensure transparency, accountability¹³ and integrity in contracting.

- Develop an open, accessible database of infrastructure projects associated with sports events to serve as a "reference class forecasting" to help improve cost estimations and external monitoring. An open contracting data standard for infrastructure¹⁴ (the OC4IDS) has been developed by OCP (Open Contracting Partnership) and CoST - the Infrastructure Transparency Initiative¹⁵ and results show the added-value of the standard.
- Mandate that sports organisations be subject to internationally recognised standards of business reporting and transparency obligations, regardless of their legal status or confidentiality protections that may be granted by their place of incorporation.

In recent years, more than 60 countries have launched investigations into allegations of match fixing around the world. What is becoming increasingly clear however is the relationship between match fixing and transnational organized crime. Therefore, with regard to match-fixing, the C20 recommends that the G20 ACWG:

- Introduce precautionary measures to reduce the risks of corruption and transnational organized crime in the sports sector.
- Improve law enforcement capabilities to investigate and cooperate in cases related to corruption and match-fixing – especially across borders.
- Enhance international cooperation in exchanging intelligence information and experiences and developing strategies to combat transnational organized crime networks involved in match-fixing.

¹¹ <https://portal.costukraine.org/graph.html>

¹² http://engineersagainstpoverity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/01/EAP-Insight_Corruption.pdf

¹³ <http://engineersagainstpoverity.org/wp-content/uploads/2021/05/EAP-Insights-Accountability-1.pdf>

¹⁴ <https://standard.open-contracting.org/infrastructure/latest/en/>

¹⁵ <https://infrastructuretransparency.org/>

⁹ <http://engineersagainstpoverity.org/resource/changing-the-game-a-critical-analysis-of-large-scale-corruption-in-mega-sport-event-infrastructure-projects/>

¹⁰ https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/G20-Anti-Corruption-Resources/Other-Deliverables/2017_G20_Leaders_anti-corruption_commitments_2009_-_2017.pdf

CORRUPTION IN EMERGENCIES

Equity, safety, inclusivity, transparency and accountability, with a particular focus on gender mainstreaming and human rights, should be key objectives when dealing with emergencies. Corruption thrives during times of crisis, particularly during the reconstruction phase (for instance in post-conflict scenarios) and during emergency responses when governments are focused first and foremost on ensuring security and health safety. The COVID-19 outbreak is no exception. Even in ordinary times, corruption in the health sector causes losses of over US\$500 billion every year¹⁶ and according to the UNODC, approximately 10% – 25% of all money spent on procurement globally is lost to corruption¹⁷. In the EU, 28% of health corruption cases are related specifically to procurement of medical equipment¹⁸. No one sector or stakeholder can tackle global crises and response alone. Every stakeholder has a different role - governments, donors, CSOs, journalists, and global political leaders.

As many countries continue to face significant challenges in guaranteeing broad access to healthcare, ensuring transparency when it comes to the purchase of vaccines and the ability to ensure equitable distribution of vaccines as key steps towards a fair recovery. To tackle the pernicious impact of corruption in times of crisis, we call on the G20 to continue to prioritise the effective implementation of key high-level principles to deliver on its Call to Action on Corruption and COVID-19¹⁹.

Recommendations to the G20:

- Publish all the data on COVID debt, budget allocations, vaccination and medical procurement processes and distribution to allow for public monitoring and mitigate corruption risks (machine-readable data). Empower civil society and government actors - such as State Audit Institutions - to track the procurement and distribution of vaccines, by establishing oversight bodies with access to real-time spending, inventory, and delivery data, such as vaccine usage and wastage rates by region.
- Increasing vaccine manufacturing through investments in regional capacity and supporting policies to increase knowledge sharing by removing trade-related barriers, and creating tech transfer hubs.

- In line with its High-Level Principles on Effective Protection of Whistleblowers the G20 should commit to including strong whistleblower protections in emergency stimulus laws and ensure whistleblower protection for health sector workers and essential workers. G20 countries should also include strong reporting and whistleblower protection clauses in broader relief programmes, enabling people to report corruption and fraud in the disbursement of the programmes without fear of retaliation. Such reporting channels must be gender sensitive and ensure the anonymity and security of those who report, as well as the follow-up of these reports.

CROSS-CUTTING THEMES & FURTHER RECOMMENDATIONS

There are a number of issues that arose as cross-cutting priority areas including: Gender, Environment, Civic Participation and Beneficial Ownership Transparency. The C20 ACWG encourages the G20 to consider the following recommendations:

- Implement the High Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency²⁰ by assessing the effectiveness of measures adopted by G20 members in particular principle 6 & 7 and promote new global standards that require jurisdictions to establish central, public beneficial ownership registers with verified information.
- Ensure that Anti-money laundering obligations also apply to non-financial businesses and professions, including corporate service providers, accountants, lawyers, real estate and luxury goods dealers by interlinking corporate Beneficial Ownership databases with real estate ownership registries to help asset recovery efforts.
- Support civil society to monitor and participate in activities such as public procurement processes and the drafting of the post-pandemic plans (such as the Next Generation EU Plan) and promote their engagement in the enforcement of the planned activities. The G20 should consider using participatory civic technologies in order to ensure that the heterogeneity of voices and demands are received.
- Support and prioritise gender-sensitive research in areas where there is currently insufficient data and information, such as corruption and climate migrants, corruption and climate mobility, corruption in technology.

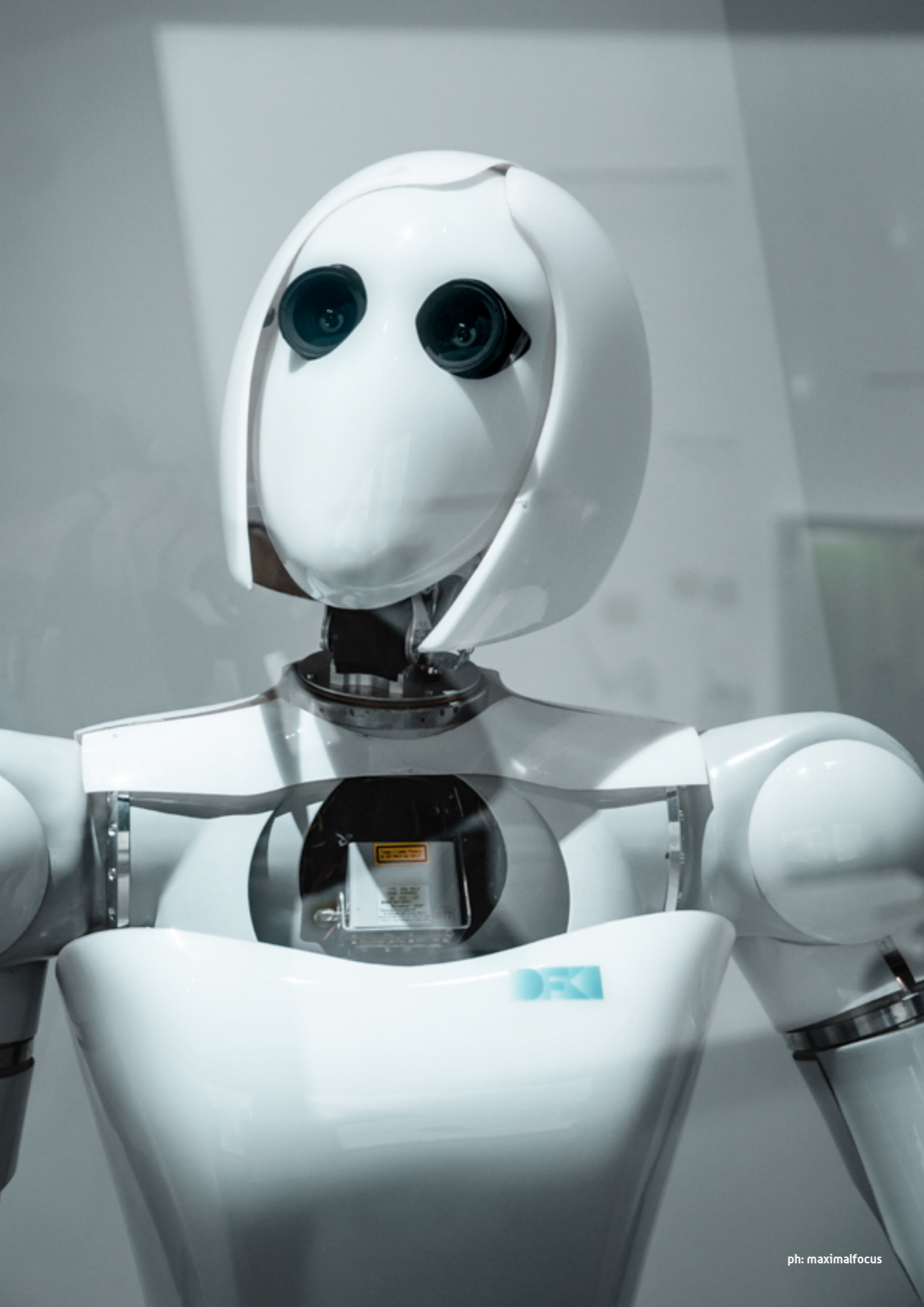
²⁰ http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_high-level_principles_beneficial_ownership_transparency.pdf

¹⁶ <http://ti-health.org/wp-content/uploads/2019/03/IgnoredPandemic-WEB-v3.pdf>

¹⁷ https://www.unodc.org/documents/corruption/Publications/2013/Guidebook_on_anti-corruption_in_public_procurement_and_the_management_of_public_finances.pdf

¹⁸ http://ti-health.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/01/Making_The_Case_for_Open_Contracting_TI_PHP_Web.pdf

¹⁹ https://www.bmjv.de/SharedDocs/Downloads/EN/G20/G20_Call%20to%20Action_2020.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2



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6

DIGITALIZATION

Relevant G20 commitments

The attention of the G20 to the role played by the processes of digitalization has been marked by the creation of the Digital Economy Task Force (DETF). The DETF, established in 2016, supports the work of the ministers with competence on issues related to the digital economy and highlights the central role of digital transformation in the broader content of economic and social development. In 2020 the G20 Saudi Arabia presidency set the following five priorities in the declaration of the digital economy ministerial meeting: Trustworthy AI, Smart Cities, Cyber Resilience in Global Economic Systems, Data Flows, and Measurement of the Digital Economy.

The Italian Presidency in 2021 commits to develop new perspectives on digitalization and digital governance by setting broader priorities following some of the SDGs principles (people, prosperity and planet) based on the foundation set over the previous years. It focuses on rapid recovery from the COVID-19 crisis through enhancing the digital economy while bridging the digital divide and making digitalization an opportunity for all, with smooth and rapid energy transition and a focus on “smart cities”.

While dealing with the role and the impact of digitalization processes, we must take in consideration multiple dimensions; from the way production and trade change, to the impact on the people involved in the productive process, to the transformation of relations among people and institutions on the way communication changes. As it was highlighted by the C20 in 2020, the processes of digitalization in the different sectors of human life, and in particular in the economy, must be considered in the context of human rights, individual and societal empowerment and well-being, extending far beyond the current agenda of productivity, trade and economic growth of nations through rapid technology innovation.

Considering the contributions made by the C20 in previous years and during this period focusing on the Digital Economy, in view of the priorities of the G20 Italy, we will reflect on the following interrelated aspects, knowing that they do not exhaust the complex context that digitalization has generated.



The current challenges

Starting from the priorities proposed by the Italian presidency and the development of the discussion in the DETF and other G20 WGs we want to focus on key relevant challenges.

INEQUALITY AND HUMAN RIGHTS

Digitalization offers opportunities in accelerating progress towards development, including in achieving SDGs. At the same time, it can perpetuate inequalities and digital divide between and within countries and different demographics. COVID-19 has widened these divisions. Currently, people's lives are mediated by digital technologies that are inequitably distributed by **digital service providers that are monopolized by large transnational technology**. We need to add that the current geopolitical tensions have been amplified by the conflicts around diverse trends of science and technology innovation, including digitalization and biotechnology. Despite the repeated call from G20 on human centrality and "leave no one behind", digitalization has been driven by transnational digital platforms that are beyond the control by democracy that is currently based on nation states.

Thus, **basic human rights principles**, including freedom of expression and association and protection of privacy, especially on line, **are under threat**, while the use of **fake news poisoned the democratic discussion**. Moreover, "Business and Human Rights" aspects are often ignored under the accelerated implementation of new digital technologies.

PERSPECTIVES ON GENDER

Digitalization could be employed as a tool to promote gender equality and women's empowerment by giving women and girls wider opportunities for jobs, education, information, and a wide range of services, including health care. However, the impact of COVID-19 shows us a different picture. Women and girls have been disproportionately affected by COVID-19; more women faced unemployment and precarious jobs with lower wages. More women and girls have suffered from gender-based violence, while even more have been burdened by care and housework due to "lockdown" measures for COVID-19 prevention. Many have less opportunities of education and training to gain digital skills and access to internet and technological devices.

RIGHTS OF CHILDREN

With adequate respect and protection of children's rights, digitalization can support children to secure the full range of their civil, political, cultural, economic and social rights. But current digitalization trend have failed to ensure protection of children's rights and existing inequalities have been increased. New ways to perpetrate violence against children grew, facilitating situations in which children experience violence and/or may be influenced to harm themselves or others. In addition, COVID-19 led to an increased risk of harm online, given that children spend more time on virtual platforms in "stay-home" circumstances.

HEALTH

Digitalization has a profound opportunity to improve people's health when people have more equitable access to digital technology, sufficient level of digital literacy and appropriate measures to protect personal health data. The principles of transparency, accountability and informed consent are more important in the context of digital health to strengthen the improvement of people's health. In this context, we are facing the challenges of widening health inequality amplified by inequitable access to health-related digital technology and insufficient digital literacy, along the division of rich and poor, urban and rural, gender, disability, and other diverse vulnerability. Insufficient protection of personal health data is a real threat of people's lives.

While AI has been gradually introduced into the digital health sector, there are significant challenges in using AI for health decision making because AI can amplify the discrimination and prejudice that exists in society through deep learning.

DIGITALIZATION AND GOVERNANCE

Democratic governance is at risk from misuse of technologies and concentration driven by transnational mega-IT platforms that are beyond control of current democratic governance systems based on nation states and global conventions. The power to promote global digitalization is mainly guided by capital. Tech giants can influence political life and the lack of regulation creates fertile grounds to foster misinformation and cyber attacks.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE AND SOCIETY

Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems currently impact a broad array of issues. They have a profound new role in human practices and society. In the long term, they could challenge human's special sense of experience and agency, raising additional concerns about human self-understanding, social, cultural and environmental interaction, autonomy and dignity.

EDUCATION AND THE FUTURE OF WORK

The specific qualities that digital knowledge takes on can pose significant threats to knowledge diversity, cultural inclusion, transparency and intellectual freedom. Current patterns of governance of digital infrastructures present great challenges to sustaining education as a global common good. Developments in biotechnology and neuroscience have the potential to unleash an engineering of human being previously inconceivable. Transformative disruptions are emerging in the world of work that will have massive and yet-unknown effects. This transformation will create uneven impact across sectors and areas of the world. "Gig" economies are changing the relationships between education and employment by altering traditional credentialing structures.

CONNECTIVITY AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

Growing digital divides remain between and within both so called developed and developing countries, in terms of the availability, affordability, and access to broadband.

Digitalization provides an increase of available information which can be an advantage for the consumers. But it can be a risk due to traceability applied to people and consumers, affecting privacy. Geolocation and qualitative traceability allow the qualification of products, making possible responsible consumption respectful of environment and peoples involvement in their production.

Digital transformation hasn't been accessible and correctly target local business communities, such as SMEs and entrepreneurs, especially women and marginalized and under-served communities outside capital cities in most of the countries. The adoption of digital technologies, e-payments, or cross-border e-commerce for the majority of business in developing economies is undermined by longstanding barriers to financial inclusion and access to credit.

The transformation of e-commerce is creating 'public digital spaces' occupied by private actors providing buyers and sellers the opportunity to trade their goods. The physical space for markets is provided, all over the world, by the public authority. Leaving the virtual space for markets in private hands without any kind of regulation means to give to some private actors an enormous discretionary power to include and exclude from the market.

Priority asks and recommendations

DIGITALIZATION LED BY HUMAN RIGHTS PRINCIPLES

Nation states in general, especially G20 members, should fully implement their obligations under international human rights frameworks to address security concerns of the internet in accordance with their international human rights obligations and ensure protection of freedom of expressions, association, and privacy.

Guiding Principle of Business and Human Rights should be fully operationalized in the context of digitalization. (ref. to C20 contribution to G20 Labour WG)

FOCUS ON GENDER PERSPECTIVES

Governments must ensure women and girls, as well as LGBTQI+, indigenous people, people with disabilities, and people with diverse vulnerabilities have equitable access to opportunities to gain digital skills, internet and other technological devices. Digital empowerment for girls has to be promoted when they start in schools.

RIGHTS AND PROTECTION OF CHILDREN

States should prohibit by law the profiling or targeting of children of any age for commercial purposes on the bases of digital record of their actual or inferred characteristics.

Practices that rely on neuromarketing, emotional analytics, immersive advertising in virtual and augmented reality environments to promote products, applications and services should be prohibited from engagement directly or indirectly with children. States should implement safety and protective measures in accordance with children's evolving capacities.

DIGITAL HEALTH

G20 should commit to work together with WHO and other health stakeholders to develop and adopt a global framework on the use of health data as a public good, whilst protecting individual rights and the confidentiality of personal data.

Health related digital technology should be used to enhance the potentiality of grass-roots communities on data collection and health service delivery, including civil registration and vital statistics systems.

GOVERNANCE

G20 should commit to strengthen governance on digital technologies and data, to respond to the urgent need for a participatory, inclusive, transparent global and regional mechanisms for the evaluation of digital technologies before they are developed and deployed. G20 should promote the transformation of the model of digital governance mechanism from a centralized model to a different paradigm led by synergy and cooperation that respects the sovereignty of individuals and communities. Personal data transfers should be protected at least at the level required by international human rights law. At the domestic level, data-driven, data-intensive systems that collect and process biometric data and those aimed toward mass surveillance should be avoided. The use of facial recognition and remote biometric recognition should be banned when they are used for surveillance in publicly accessible spaces people can't avoid.

ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

In order to mitigate the negative impacts of AI and machine learning systems to people and society, governments and the private sector should pursue at all stages of the AI system life cycle under the principle of proportionality, do-no-harm, safety, scrutiny, fairness and non-discrimination, sustainability, privacy and data protection, human oversight and determination, transparency, explainability, responsibility and accountability.

EMPLOYMENT

G20 should ensure full labor rights for platform workers, including protection of these workers against isolation and fragmentation.

Occupational safety should be fully protected and comprehensive social protection must

be ensured. In the context of the COVID-19 pandemic, dramatic improvements in the wages and working environments of essential workers, care workers and others are needed.

CONNECTIVITY AND DIGITAL ECONOMY

Aligned with the UN, governments and all stakeholders should support further actions, including investment, to improve broadband access and connectivity in the Global South, especially LDC to close the digital divide, with significant consideration on digital divide along gender. E-commerce platforms should be provided by the state and public authorities, as is the case of physical markets in towns and villages provided by local authorities. Governments and Stakeholders should promote public-private cooperation and dialogue to develop enabling environments and ecosystems for widespread economic participation. Significant consideration is needed on the issues such as ICT infrastructure, access and cost, digital skills and literacy, digital rights, data protection and privacy and targeted policy frameworks on cybersecurity, taxation, and data flows.



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7

GENDER

Relevant G20 commitments

Over the years, the G20 has identified the following commitments.

“Reduce the gap in labour force participation rates between men and women by 25 per cent by 2025 (Brisbane goal) by boosting female participation, improving the quality of employment and enhancing gender equity.”

Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration, 2014

G20 leaders renewed their commitment to monitoring the Brisbane goal in a transparent and sustained manner:

“We will work towards reducing the disproportionately high number of women in informal employment, involuntary part-time work and low paying jobs, including through providing greater access to training and career pathways and by improving employment prospects for women in all forms of employment. We will also promote policies that help women and men reconcile work and family lives in a more equitable manner.”

Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration, 2017

The G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group committed to deepen its understanding of the linkages between gender and corruption and discuss possible actions on how to include a gender dimension in anti-corruption programmes and policies.

G20 2019-2021 Anti-Corruption Action Plan

G20 Ministers responsible for the digital economy presented a comprehensive list of recommended actions to bridge the gender digital divide.

G20 Digital Economy Ministerial Declaration 2018

Leaders discussed long life learning, developing a workforce capable of meeting the on-going job market demands. The ministers also focused on youth, and encouraged G20 countries to create initiatives specially for vulnerable youth that are outside employment, education, or training (NEET). In addition, the topic of care services came as priority; chil-



dren and dependents of employees should gain access to affordable and dependable care services.

Joint Declaration between the Ministers of Education and Labour, 2018

“We will boost job creation and flexible work arrangements, seek to raise quality of employment and enhance employability of workers through lifelong learning.”

“We remain committed to promote decent work and reaffirm our commitment to take actions to eradicate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery in the world of work, including through fostering sustainable global supply chains.”

G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration, 2019

“We are currently undertaking immediate and vigorous measures to support our economies; protect workers, businesses — especially micro-, small and medium-sized enterprises — and the sectors most affected; and shield the vulnerable through adequate social protection”.

Joint Declaration between the Ministers of Education and Labor, 2018

C20 commends G20, under Argentina’s presidency, for applying a gender mainstreaming strategy across the 2018 G20 Agenda. G20 have yet to make any commitments regarding the human rights or economic participation of LGBTQI¹ people, despite their disproportionate experience of discrimination and violence.

The current challenges

The COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated and therefore brought to light the structural inequalities and systemic barriers existing globally before the pandemic. It has shown the centrality of health in our collective wellbeing and the interconnectedness and co-dependence of our social and economic systems. The crisis is particularly affecting women, girls, LGBTQI+ individuals and marginalized communities experiencing intersecting forms of discrimination.

¹ Lesbian, gay, bisexual, trans, queer, questioning, intersex.

Since the outbreak of COVID-19, emerging data and reports showed that, due to the isolation and distancing measures adopted to prevent COVID transmission, an increase of all types of **gender-based violence**² (GBV), particularly domestic violence, has been registered and is now commonly referred to as the “shadow pandemic”³. While this phenomenon has always been structural, the current crisis exacerbates it and at the same time curtails the resources and infrastructure to cope with it, as all the efforts are redirected towards the Covid-19 response. The largest study conducted on the prevalence of violence against women⁴ showed that in pre-pandemic times 1 in 3 women and girls globally, around 736 million, experience violence perpetrated by a partner or non-partner, with perpetrators being predominantly family members and friends (2018).

These numbers are likely to be higher due to the social stigma and under-reporting, as well as the ongoing exacerbation of GBV. Specific forms of GBV, such as harmful practices, appear to also be on the rise: due to pandemic-related disruptions in prevention programs including sexual and reproductive health, 2 million **FGM cases** could occur over the next decade that would otherwise have been averted⁵, as well as an additional 13 million **early marriages** between 2020 and 2030⁶.

The militarization and restrictions to individual freedoms carried out in some national Covid-19 responses have sometimes resulted in abuses of power and an overall increase in GBV⁷, as well as having a profound impact on human mobility by the implementation of even stricter border security, therefore resulting in increased violence experienced by people in migration and asylum seekers.

After a first surge in ceasefires around the world due to the onset of the Covid-19 crisis, the resuming of hostilities and the militarization of the pandemic response have exacerbated existing conflicts, fragilities, and humanitarian crises, with a particularly heavy impact on women and girls and their involvement in peacebuilding processes⁸.

Moreover, the UN Independent Expert on SOGI concluded that COVID-19 had a disproportionate impact on **LGBTQI+** persons, exacerbating patterns of social exclusions and multiple forms of violence⁹.

² <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>.

³ <https://www.unwomen.org/en/news/in-focus/in-focus-gender-equality-in-covid-19-response/violence-against-women-during-covid-19>.

⁴ <https://www.who.int/publications/i/item/9789240022256>.

⁵ <https://www.unfpa.org/press/2-million-additional-cases-female-genital-mutilation-likely-occur-over-next-decade-due-covid>.

⁶ <https://www.unfpa.org/news/millions-more-cases-violence-child-marriage-female-genital-mutilation-unintended-pregnancies>.

⁷ <https://gnwp.org/resources/covid-19-wps-database/>.

⁸ <https://asiapacific.unwomen.org/-/media/field%20office%20eseasia/docs/publications/2020/06/finalcovidwpsbeyondlockdown290620202.pdf?la=en&vs=3802>.

⁹ <https://www.ohchr.org/Documents/Issues/SexualOrientation/>

It is particularly worrisome to witness, in such challenging times, actions such as Turkey's withdrawal from the Istanbul Convention, that is considered one of the most innovative and accurate international tools to prevent GBV, protect and provide remedy to women survivors of violence and punish perpetrators, as denounced by the C20, L20 and Y20 joint statement¹⁰.

Women's mental health has been particularly impacted due to increased household responsibilities and unpaid work, fable or non-existent social protection, and higher rates of unemployment and poverty. Data gathered across the world shows how the provision and utilization of **reproductive, maternal, new-born, and child health (RMNCH)** services have been disrupted, as well as access to **sexual and reproductive health and rights (SRHR)** such as **HPV vaccination, contraceptives** and **safe abortions**, resulting in a surge of **unintended pregnancies**¹¹, especially in low and middle-income countries. In light of these challenges, global efforts to guide joint actions to prevent future health crises and improve preparedness, coordinated responses and recovery, such as **The Rome Declaration**¹², put forth insufficient commitments to address the structural obstacles that prevent the full enjoyment and realization of the right to health. The bold and ambitious principles needed would encompass, among others, the overcoming of intellectual property and trade-related barriers and the implementation of a gender-transformative approach across all areas, capable of addressing the appalling inequalities and disproportioned gendered impact of the current pandemic.

The pandemic also worsened gender and economic gaps, putting a strain on the categories that were already affected by structural inequalities. Globally, women lost more jobs and sources of income than men, therefore facing more financial precarity and falling into extreme poverty, even in High Income Countries (HICs). According to an ongoing analysis carried out by UNDP and UN Women, "by 2021 around 435 million women and girls will be living on less than \$1.90 a day — including 47 million pushed into poverty as a result of COVID-19"¹³. Addressing the structural obstacles that hamper women's economic empowerment is therefore more urgent than ever to ensure the no one is left behind.

A pivotal point for achieving gender equality is the recognition of the social and economic value of **care work**: women and girls are responsible for the vast majority of unpaid and

¹⁰ https://civil-20.org/2021/wp-content/uploads/2021/03/C20_L20_Y20_Statement_Istanbul_Convention-26.03.21.pdf.

¹¹ <https://news.un.org/en/story/2021/03/1087082>

¹² https://global-health-summit.europa.eu/rome-declaration_en

¹³ <https://www.unwomen.org/-/media/headquarters/attachments/sections/library/publications/2020/gender-equality-in-the-wake-of-covid-19-en.pdf?la=en&vs=5142>.

underpaid care work, which greatly affects their economic independence, their chances of engaging in paid labour and overall participation to society¹⁴.

The covid-19 pandemic has accelerated and almost forced the paradigm shift towards a digital society and economy, leaving many behind in the process. Women and girls are bearing the brunt of this sudden adjustment, but even before the pandemic, the digital gender divide was one of the many obstacles hampering the full realization of their rights and potential: according to OECD, in 2018 some 327 million fewer women than men have a smartphone and access to the internet¹⁵. The gender divide prevents women and girls from accessing essential services such as education and health, as well as training and job opportunities.

Meanwhile, the **climate crisis**, which is at its core an issue of racial and gender justice, continues to disproportionately impact those who least contribute to it and widen gender inequality. In fact, the climate crisis has a gendered dimension: women tend to be less involved in climate-related policy and decision making, as well as being more exposed to natural hazards due to socio-economic factors (care responsibilities, the gendered division of labour, being more reliant on natural resources for livelihood, the feminization of poverty etc.). Current efforts to put women and girls in all their diversity, LGBTQI+ persons and indigenous people at the center of the climate-related planning, policy-making and implementation are insufficient to ensure that our collective response to this crisis is inclusive, efficient and just.

Therefore, continuing to stress the urgency of the **achievement of SDG 5** (Gender Equality) is of paramount importance especially at the present time, in light of the major setbacks occurred during the pandemic and the rather slow progress that was being made in pre-pandemic times. We deem it necessary to mainstream gender-transformative analysis into the G20 covid-19 Action Plan and the overall G20 agenda, as well as committing to gather gender disaggregated data for accountability and establish a Ministerial Meeting on Gender Equality.

¹⁴ <https://www.oecd.org/dac/gender-development/47565971.pdf>.

¹⁵ <https://www.oecd.org/digital/bridging-the-digital-gender-divide.pdf>.

Priority asks and recommendations

HEALTH

- Scale up efforts to ensure **Universal Health Coverage** (UHC) and **Universal Health Access** (UHA), in order to realize the right to health for everyone and leave no one behind, especially women and girls in all their diversity, notably through the development of universal social protection floors as defined by ILO 202 and include access to essential health care services.
- Guarantee access to **Sexual and Reproductive Health and Rights** (SRHR), including menstrual health, contraceptives, antenatal care, FP, reproductive, maternal, newborn, and child health (RMNCH), safe abortions service for women and girls in all their diversity, LGBTQI+ people, vulnerable groups and key populations, indigenous people, refugees, migrants. Recognize SRHR as well as safe abortions as “essential services”, as stated in the WHO resolution of May 2020, in any health policies and everywhere and include it in all humanitarian, conflict and environmental crisis/context.
- Enhance and promote a **gender inclusive One Health** approach and **Gender Medicine**, both in terms of research and innovation, as well as in training and communication. Finance with additional funds system for the global commons for pandemic prevention, surveillance, preparedness and response without undermining existing health programs, such as SRHR, safe abortion services, nutrition, HIV/AIDS, TB, malaria, programmes for vaccination including PHV and nutrition and other chronic diseases.
- Ensure the availability of **Water, Sanitation and Hygiene** (WASH) for all people as well as in all healthcare facilities as a fundamental prerequisite for quality health care, especially for women and girls and a basic human right promoting Health and life.
- Guarantee the participation of **women and girls as agents of change** in the elaboration of preventive and curative health policies by including them in all decision-making processes.
- Acknowledge, appreciate, and support the work of health workers worldwide of which over 70% are women working in lower status, low paid roles, formal and informal sector, and insecure conditions. Make sure health workers of all sex, gender, and race, have **decent work** and are equipped with **safe and appropriately sized protective gears**.

- Implement the World Health Organization’s Vaccine Equity Declaration which encourages countries to accelerate the equitable rollout of vaccines in every country, starting with health workers and those at highest risk for COVID-19. Countries with privilege of wealth and access to the vaccine must resist and fight against vaccine nationalism, including by supporting the proposed temporary TRIPS waiver for COVID-19 health products and C-TAP.

WOMEN’S ECONOMIC EMPOWERMENT

- Recognize and take into account the **social and economic value of care work**.
- Support the development of **transformative universal social protection**, in order to recognize, reduce and redistribute unpaid care work, in particular childcare which has been severely impacted by the pandemic and caused a major impact on women’s livelihoods and employment, a first step being the effective implementation of ILO 202 recommendation on social protection floors.
- Include the *G20 Roadmap Towards and Beyond the Brisbane Target: more, better and equally paid jobs for women*, encompassed in the G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration of June 23, 2021 Catania (Italy) *Fostering an inclusive, sustainable, and resilient recovery of labour markets and societies*, in the final G20 Declaration, specifying that the Brisbane goal needs to be met by **increasing women’s employment**.
- Enhance **legislative frameworks and social protections** for women’s economic security in the informal and domestic sectors.
- Empower women to be **self-employed through entrepreneurship, specifically by addressing how the entrepreneurship** and innovation sectors define success according to forms of impact typically led by men (the franchise model), whereas women entrepreneurs lead impact at the level of mindsets and policy changes. Support women in the access to capital and credit that makes the path to female self-entrepreneurship difficult, aggravated by less experience of women in negotiating financial matters, promoting training and effective follow-up.

FINANCE

- Implement more redistributive macro-economic policies promoting social justice notably through **sovereign debt suspensions and restructuring, progressive taxation and fight against illicit financial flows**.
- Facilitate increased **access to capital** for women-led organizations.
- **Redefine success in entrepreneurship** to include the unique forms of impact led by women entrepreneurs.

DIGITALIZATION

- Scale up efforts to ensure that women and girls in all their diversity possess digital skills and have access to internet and technological devices, therefore **bridging the gender digital divide**.
- Place **digital security** firmly at the center of the engagement within the process of digitalization: curtail the spread of abuse in digital platforms and networks through regulatory bodies and task forces.
- Ensure the **participation of women and girls**, as well as other **marginalized communities**, in the ICT sector to work towards the elimination of the gender and racial bias found in AI, such as in algorithms.
- Promote multi-stakeholder partnerships, **global partnerships** of “like-minded” public, private and third sector actors to manage digitalization processes.

MAINSTREAM GENDER-TRANSFORMATIVE ANALYSIS INTO THE G20 COVID-19 ACTION PLAN AND G20 AGENDA

- Implement a **gender mainstreaming strategy** in the whole G20 agenda, commit to gather gender disaggregated data for accountability and establish a **Ministerial Working Group on Gender**.
- Develop **gender and intersectional impact assessments** in the design phase of any legislative, political, programmatic and strategic initiative.

GENDER-BASED VIOLENCE (GBV)

- Address GBV as a **structural phenomenon** leaving behind emergency-based re-

sponses, address GBV in all contexts and in all its manifestations. The experience of fighting the pandemic has shown that concrete resources and partnerships can be put in place if a serious and widespread phenomenon is to be tackled.

- Increase sustainable financing for programmes aimed at ending GBV and its many manifestations, e.g. **harmful practices** that appear to be on the rise due to pandemic-related disruptions.
- Involve **women’s, feminist and LGBTQI+ associations** in the implementation of national plans duly funded and support their activities and programmes.

EDUCATION

- Close the **gender gap in education** in all fields, promoting human rights and gender equality education.
- Promote comprehensive **sexuality education**, including the dissemination of IEC materials, WASH and information related to menstruation and safe menstrual practices including the distribution of menstrual hygiene products in schools (Menstrual Hygiene Management - MHM).
- Tackle **gender stereotypes and unconscious biases** in school at every level, including trainings for teachers and school material.
- Increase enrolment of women and girls in all their diversity in **STEM programmes**.
- Scale up efforts to protect girls and young women from **domestic violence and sexual exploitation, end school-related gender-based violence** (SRGBV).

DEVELOPMENT AND AGENDA2030, WOMEN, PEACE AND SECURITY

- Scale up efforts to achieve **SDG 5** (Gender Equality), especially in light of the major setbacks occurred during the pandemic.
- Implement **gender mainstreaming** across all SDGs.
- Support the proposal to create a **Global Fund for Social Protection** put forward by the UN Special Rapporteur on Extreme Poverty and Human Rights, a way of addressing the urgent funding gap in low and middle income countries, providing grant based matching funds that would offer a financial incentive for countries to invest more in gender transformative social protection—ensuring that domestic resource mobilization gradually expands so that, in time, international support becomes unnecessary.

- Recommit to **0.7% of States' GNI to ODA**, allocating 85% of the ODA to gender equality and foresee the elaboration of a bi-annual accountability report on international cooperation for gender equality.
- Implement a **Feminist Foreign Policy**, therefore centering the security of the most marginalized and rethinking global power relations and hierarchies, to address, among other challenges, the exceptional struggles migrant, asylum seeking and refugee women and girls must face.
- Strengthen the presence of women and girls in all their diversity in **peacebuilding processes**.

CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

- Enforce a **gender-inclusive green economy and transition**, putting women and girls in all their diversity at the center of all policy and decision-making processes.
- Promote a **gender inclusive One Health approach**, also by assessing and taking into consideration the impact of climate change on women in all their diversity, indigenous people and the Global South.
- Fully implement **international frameworks** on Climate Change through a gender lens.

DEMOCRATIC SOCIETIES, PARTICIPATION IN LEADERSHIP AND DECISION-MAKING

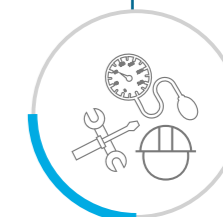
- Implement **public gender procurement** measures.
- Address the shrinking of the democratic space by ensuring the **full participation of Civil Society** to multilateral fora and its related international processes, especially Women's rights, feminist, LGBTQI+, indigenous, migrant/refugee-led associations.
- Scale up efforts to put women and girls in all their diversity and LGBTQI+ persons at the **center of the decision-making processes** across all areas and therefore ensure equal opportunities for **leadership** by removing structural legal, institutional, social and cultural barriers that prevent their full participation to society, also through quotas.





8

LABOUR



Relevant G20 commitments

"[...] We agree to the goal of reducing the gap in participation rates between men and women in our countries by 25 per cent by 2025, taking into account national circumstances, to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force, significantly increase global growth and reduce poverty and inequality."

G20 2014 Brisbane Leaders' Communiqué

"We remain committed to building an inclusive, fair and sustainable Future of Work by promoting decent work, vocational training and skills development, including reskilling workers and improving labour conditions in all forms of employment, recognizing the importance of social dialogue in this area, including work delivered through digital platforms, with a focus on promoting labour formalization and making social protection systems strong and portable, subject to national law and circumstances. We will continue to foster cognitive, digital and entrepreneurship skills, and encourage the collection and exchange of good practices. We will promote increasing labour force participation of underrepresented as well as vulnerable groups, including persons with disabilities."

G20 2018 Buenos Aires Leaders' Declaration

"[...] We recognize that emerging new forms of work, particularly those driven by technological innovation can be a source of job opportunities but may also pose challenges for decent work and social protection systems."

G20 2019 Osaka Leaders' declaration

"We will promote sustainable, safe and healthy working environments throughout longer working lives, expand the use of flexible work arrangements for a better quality of life and work, strengthen lifelong learning starting from younger ages for more fulfilling careers, and improve social protection and employment services to support transitions."

G20 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration, Matsuyama 2019, par. 13

“With changing patterns of work linked to digital transformation, the classification of workers employment status has significant implications for workers’ rights and access to adequate social protection for all. We recognize that correct classification will help support the creation of regulations and policies to reduce social protection gaps, help minimize worker exploitation and ensure fair support from employers. Effective monitoring, including data collection, and reporting on how social protection is adapting to reflect the changing patterns of work is essential. We will ensure that workers’ rights are respected and that we develop our social protection systems to be sufficiently robust and adaptable to provide access to adequate support for all.”

G20 2020 Labour and Employment Ministerial Declaration, Riyadh 2020, par. 5

The current challenges

The C20 2021 established an informal Labour Task Force made up of some relevant experts from the members of the different official C20 Working Groups. The following analysis of the current challenges and the resulting C20 priority asks and recommendations are the output of a joint work which aimed at bringing together the different perspectives and experiences to call the G20 for their responsibility for ensuring an inclusive productive process, the just transition and decent work for all.

LABOUR AND HUMAN RIGHTS

The G20 has a special responsibility due to its dimension and its economic and political power. As civil society organizations from all over the world, we think this responsibility is particularly relevant in the way G20 member countries shape, regulate and protect labour and employment, that is all the persons participating in the productive process. The guiding reference to play this role is provided by the 2030 Agenda and, more strongly, by the framework of **Human Rights (HR)**, which clearly set the universal commitment for justice, equal treatment for women and men, no distinctions, decent work for all. More clearly they show how **labour and human economic activity are the participation to the building of a dignified human society**. But recent decades have been marked by a falling labour share of income, rising inequalities and the increasingly difficult international and regional co-operation. These disparities could be further influenced by technological diffusion, including the automation of tasks and intermediary functions but

also the outsourcing and segmentation of process delivery along value chains enabled by new communication systems. The G20 has the duty to ensure internally a full respect of the HRs and, beyond its borders, to contribute to strengthen the multilateral frameworks responsible for protecting, this way, labour and employment. For this, we recommend a renewed commitment of G20 within the ILO to broaden and strengthen international and national laws protecting decent work. But we request as well G20 members to undertake responsibility while signing international trade agreements that directly and indirectly provide or deny spaces for Human Rights and decent work in partner countries.

A DEMANDING TRANSITION

For several years the world has been engaged in a **demanding transition**, due to different factors. The challenges coming from climate change and environmental degradation, the evolution and change of economic power among nations and regions, the drastic advancement of digitalization and scientific and technological innovation (STI) pushed the productive systems towards a transition difficult to drive. In this context, the COVID-19 disaster made a dramatic impact forcing the economies to fast measures, forcing remote working everywhere, with sometimes destructive consequences on workers and in general on the world of work.

The impact of the reaction to the COVID emergency, reaching an already changing context, will produce a strong influence on the organization of productive systems, with possible permanent changes and a highly increased relevance of remote working and use of digital opportunities. **This change won't be neutral and calls for all public actors on a special responsibility** to avoid that such a transition, while increasing opportunities in particular from the consumer side, could have a dangerous impact on workers and citizens, increasing exploitation and fuelling inequalities, undermining the social fabric and, ultimately, weakening our societies.

The concern on the evolution of labour and on the political response needed to provide respect and protection to all people involved in the productive process has to be built with a holistic **approach to the role of the economy**: the guiding coherence that obliges to social protection and to ensure decent work must lead to ask a clear co-responsibility of all economic actors who have to scrupulously contribute in sharing resources with the community through the tax payment. This is particularly relevant in this transition.

The technical evolution provides increasing opportunities for hiding profits and bending the rules. For this reason, the political effort to shape the future of labour and economies has to be accompanied by a coherent and rigorous set of rules protecting the proper role of economies within the societies. In other words, we can't speak about just transition if we don't provide **tax justice and just re-distribution**.

During these times of crisis, uncertainty, and rapid transformation, we need G20 governments to be able to respond more proactively to emerging problems. We need public interest concerns about economic rights, racial justice and fairness, and human, civil and political rights to be the focus of conversations in full transparency about rewriting the rules governing data and technology.

Priority asks and recommendations

BUSINESS AND HUMAN RIGHTS (BHR)

Business and Human Rights (BHR) framework is one of the most important issues to address human rights in the global supply chains of the business conducts. There has been strong political momentum for BHR in the international community since the United Nations Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights (UNGPs) have been adopted in 2011. This year will mark the 10th anniversary since the adoption, which requires all countries to launch a National Action Plan including Human Rights Due Diligence (HRDD). There is a strong trend to legislate the mandatory HRDD, especially in Europe, but the progress made is not enough at the global level. Therefore, we call the G20 in assuming a strong initiative to approve internally National Action Plans with HRDD and to foster this international initiative.

ELEMENTS FOR A JUST TRANSITION

The dramatic digitalization fastened by the health emergency started a process with diverse impacts according to socio-economic capacities, opening new not completely predictable perspectives that have to be managed in the framework of Human Rights and sustainability.

- **Environmental sustainability and Climate Change**

There is no question that the transition towards a sustainable future comes with challenges. But not taking the needed steps could result in irreversible catastrophic impacts for everyone, especially vulnerable populations. **Just Transition** of the

workforce from dirty industries like coal, oil and gas, towards other better, qualified and sustainable jobs is also needed. A **Climate-safe future** has many new industries and services that can make humanity thrive, but at the same time, some technologies and practices need to fade away. A transition towards a sustainable future must *take into account the livelihood of those workers and communities who depend in the existing industries*. Governments must provide conditions for the transition to be fair and equitable **in order to achieve environmental and social justice**.

- **Digitalization and new works**

Digitalization in a post-Covid world, especially from a low-middle income country, has played a critical role in bridging the knowledge and capacity gaps to deal effectively with COVID, maintaining social distancing and providing access to health and even on door food services. However, in the long run this process **risks to adversely affect the job markets** and especially those who do not have the skill to utilize digital platforms to their advantage. Therefore, a solid mechanism of capacity building of vulnerable communities should be ensured.

The evolution of information technology, led by transnational IT platforms, is **changing the nature of employment and labour**, workers' rights, and workers' safety. The people who will be most affected by this challenge are the essential workers. Platform works are even changing the nature of work, from an opportunity to contribute to the society, supplying a good or a service and contributing this way to the social fabric, to just a way to earn some income, with no relation or involvement with customers nor with colleagues, gradually fragmenting human relations. At the same time, there is **growing concern about the control that Big Tech exerts over so many aspects of public life**, especially through anti-competitive behaviour. Therefore, the following are considered necessary and to be prioritized:

- Full labour rights for platform workers must be guaranteed. In the labour relations of platform workers, it is necessary to fully guarantee the right of collective bargaining and the right of collective bargaining of trade unions.
- The rights of workers to be protected against isolation, fragmentation and their consequences should be actively and positively guaranteed.
- Occupational safety should be fully protected. Comprehensive social protection must be ensured. Social security for occupational accidents, non-communicable diseases, mental illness and injuries should be expanded.

- In addition, in the context of COVID-19 pandemic, dramatic improvements in the **wages and working environments of Essential Workers, Care Workers** and others are needed.

- **Social protection, redistribution and tax justice**

Today, the evolution of information technology has led to the rapid globalization of revenue structures led by transnational IT companies. However, the tax systems and social security mechanisms are fragmented by country, which has led to a situation of widening inequality and disparity inside and among countries. We as C20 therefore urgently call upon G20 members to put political muscle and weight behind addressing and prioritizing the work to institutionalize **“Fair Distribution”** for a **“Just Transition”**, tackling all aspects of tax justice, trade and financial markets regulations, both at national and international level.

In order to ensure global social justice and that “no one is left behind,” a huge level of resource mobilization, a mechanism that enables global re-distribution, and a political framework to develop an enabling environment, are crucial. Realizing a global “just re-distribution” is essential to make these goals possible. Hence developing a global re-distribution mechanism that complements the national mechanism of wealth re-distribution by realizing global solidarity taxes, including financial transaction taxes and currency transaction taxes by utilizing the advancing digital technology is mandatory. In the same perspective a *global fund for social protection* has to be considered.

There is a need to go further in ensuring a **human-centred use of new technologies**, including AI, in the workplaces. To do this, it is essential to enhance the digital citizenship capabilities of workers and more broadly of citizens, and civil society organizations, as well as a regulatory task force is needed to build a monitoring and ethical enforcement architecture that can curtail the spread of abuse in digital platforms and networks. It is therefore necessary to develop focused global investment and financing efforts related to digital skills education in an inclusive manner across regions, sectors, gender, and age groups.

GENDER, WOMEN AND GIRLS

Digitalization can be a powerful enabler of women and girls’ economic empowerment. In order to make this real, social and cultural gender stereotypes as well as biases that amplify existing gender inequalities in society need to be eradicated. Women are still under-represented in some of the most dynamic sectors, including ICT, which offers higher

pay and better career opportunities. In fact, the ICT sector is mainly male dominated and to ensure women can access tech jobs on an equal footing with men, gender stereotypes regarding science being a “male” field must be dismantled. With this view, increasing the number of girls studying STEM subjects is for sure something needed and continuing to promote greater participation of girls in educational pathways that ensure rapid entry into the labour market, including scientific and technological disciplines, is therefore necessary. Nonetheless, Information and communications technologies (ICT) can facilitate the participation of women in society and in decision making processes, the access to training opportunities, job opportunities and services, the networking and organization of women from different parts of the world to act against sexism, misogyny and rape culture, as well as the promotion of awareness campaigns against gender-based violence, cyber harassment and any other collective commitment. However, it is crucial to ensure access to digitisation also in terms of tools to women and girls worldwide and it is of utmost importance to see girls and women not only as end-users of digitalization for profit but they have to be involved in the process from the design phase of the IT medium. Only then will it be possible to consider, for example, algorithms useful to recognize misogynistic or sexist content in order to create safer networks

The digitalization process, so important in the productive systems, also creates **relevant vulnerabilities, within and beyond the work dimension**. This is the case of **gender-based violence in the digital space**, which is still unregulated. This issue must be urgently addressed. We need more cooperation among states and the ICT sector to make the virtual space safer for women and girls, as well as for all vulnerable persons, including children.

G20 leaders already highlighted the importance of access to STEM education and occupations for women’s inclusion. Nevertheless, when women enter the workforce in a male dominated industry, salaries drop because of the gender pay gap: therefore, regulations and policies to close this gap are essential. To this end, it should be pointed out that alongside the **Brisbane targets** set by the G20 countries, looking at the gender gap only is not enough and at least one target concerning the absolute increase of women’s employment should be set.

A relevant problem is gender-based violence, which permeates every aspect of our societies and has been exacerbated by COVID-19. Gender-based violence can be both the cause and the effect of **women’s exclusion from economic independence and full**

access to equal rights. When women are not economically empowered, they are more likely to be exposed to gender based violence and their chances to escape it are fewer. At the same time, experiencing any form of gender-based violence, from domestic violence to harmful practices, can compromise women's full participation to the labour market and society at large. The measures taken as a result of the COVID outbreak, implementing remote working everywhere, have contributed to increase the exposition of women to domestic violence. Specific programs to assist the survivors are needed, including paid domestic violence leave and adjustments to working patterns for women. Moreover, cooperation is needed to ensure women can work in enterprises without experiencing discrimination and violence: laws, funds and policies addressing this issue must be reinforced.

TRAINING, ROLE OF EDUCATION SYSTEMS, LIFELONG LEARNING

We appreciate the effort of the G20 Employment WG in considering the implementing policies that promote **lifelong learning and skills upgrading** as crucial as well as the ones that foster transitions in the labour market and ensure the socio-economic inclusion of all citizens. Digitalization in fact can cause the exclusion of women and girls and of vulnerable and marginalized groups including youth, people with disabilities, indigenous peoples, migrants, refugees, nomads, children facing the risk of child labour, people with mental health issues, rural and remote communities, and those living in crisis caused by conflicts and natural disasters. In order to achieve actionable policies to increase representation of marginalized groups in employment, public policies, calling the private sector on responsibility, have to encourage and support investments both in lifelong learning and skills upgrading and in infrastructure and technological tools. As per the *G20 Joint declaration of Education and Employment working group last year: G20 Global Pandemic Preparedness, Attending to Access to Education & Employment*, the C20 continue to consider **investing in education with a specific attention to girls' education as the main leverage to affect inequalities and restore equality of opportunity.** This means to consider lifelong learning as a fundamental way to build a democratic culture, able to protect common goods, human rights and to achieve gender equality, and lead to view "Education 4.0: Global citizenship" as the main transversal competence to be citizens of the future.

Since the **access to workplaces and schools** was, and continues to be, off-limits for millions of workers and students worldwide, in particular for girls, bold policy responses, in scope and scale, are required in order to put human beings before profit interests. This means that education systems must be adequately funded, and they must be oriented towards achieving suitability for jobs which offer dignified remuneration and empowering life prospects. New public sector jobs must be generated through initiatives such as Green New Deals or a New Social Contract. Civic spiritedness, global solidarity, harnessing technology for learning and labour needs must be fostered as well as ambitious and dedicated internationalisation of education, embedding Global Citizenship Education (GCE) and Education for Sustainable Development (ESD) in formal, informal and non-formal education settings, to equip youth with the tangible competencies of a modern worker (ref. ILO, 2018).

Preparing young people for future skills and future jobs with capabilities for new jobs covering both technical and GCE skills in the interest of fostering the competencies of a global worker is essential. Therefore we call for G20 to recognize that provisions in education, training and employment for all are crucial during and post the global health emergency so that no one is left behind.



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FINANCE

The policy recommendations of the C20 Finance WG cover four interconnected areas of G20 work: (1) International Financial Architecture (including taxation); (2) Infrastructure Financing; (3) Sustainable Finance; and (4) Trade and Development.

INTRODUCTION & MACRO ASSESSMENT

GLOBAL CONTEXT AND COVID-19 CRISIS: RESPONSE REMAINS INADEQUATE AND UNAMBITIOUS

The world is still confronted with a human crisis of inestimable proportions, imposing its heaviest tolls on the marginalised and those at the intersections of multiple vulnerabilities. The economic and financial consequences, which continue to unfold, are rooted in patterns of financialised hyper-globalisation that amplified structural inequalities, within and between countries, and ossified a global division of labour focused on the extraction of wealth and resources from the Global South. Once again, women have been, and continue to be, exposed to multiple burdens, being under/un-paid and overrepresented in care, social, domestic, frontline health, and food systems roles, as well as in the informal economy and small enterprises. The pandemic also revealed the consequences of decades of structural adjustment, fiscal consolidation, corporate concentration, tax dodging and financialisation, resulting in the structural under-investment in public health, care and social protection systems now proving so crucial.

As the G20 was initially constituted precisely to confront a global crisis, it is imperative that it takes action in these unprecedented times promoting ambitious multilateral responses in the context of the United Nations, by providing political and financial commitments to bold measures consistent with international human rights law, the Agenda 2030 for Sustainable Development, the Financing for Development Outcomes, the Beijing Declaration and Platform for Action, and the Paris Climate Agreement.



The initial set of measures established during the 2020 Presidency offered an immediate emergency package to tackle the early phases of the pandemic outbreak, but after more than a year, the overall response remains largely inadequate to confront the depth of the crisis and fails to meet people's expectations in providing effective guidance towards sustainable robust economic and social recovery. More articulate and ambitious responses are required, including structural systemic reform, as advocated in past C20's recommendations.

POLICY RECOMMENDATION: ECONOMIC RECONSTRUCTION AND SYSTEMIC REFORM SUMMIT

The scope and gravity of the current conjuncture and the depth of the structural challenges the pandemic has once again exposed require an ambitious multilateral response under the auspices, leadership and coordination of the United Nations. The G20 should promote and support an ambitious UN-centred process leading to an International Economic Reconstruction and Systemic Reform Summit under the aegis of the United Nations. This would be coherent with the role of the Financing for Development (FfD) process, in the true spirit of Monterrey, and the continued urgent calls by the UN Secretary General to move beyond "usual tools".

INTERNATIONAL FINANCIAL ARCHITECTURE

Relevant G20 commitments and current challenges

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY, TAXATION, ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS AND INEQUALITY

The G20 has repeatedly committed to promote a globally fair international tax system by tackling illicit financial flows, addressing the taxation of the digital economy and supporting developing countries in building their tax capacity. At the July 2021 Meeting of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors, the G20 claims to have achieved a historic agreement on a more stable and fairer international tax architecture by endorsing the "Statement on a two-pillar solution to address the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy" released by the OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) on July 1.

Unfortunately, the OECD-led Inclusive Framework (IF) provides deeply concerning and unfair proposals for new global tax rules, which evidently do not tackle the fundamental problems of the current international tax architecture and ignore developing countries' interests. The two-pillar solution does not address the root causes that incentivize profit shifting and facilitate tax dodging with impunity. The agreed global minimum tax of 15% is far lower than the world corporate income tax average of 25% and closer to the 12.5% proposed by low/no tax jurisdictions. Furthermore, limiting the scope of the OECD/IF so-called "solution" to a hundred or so multinational corporations (MNCs) will not enable developing countries to raise more tax revenue from all MNCs, while higher percentage of the limited additional revenue the arrangement may bring will disproportionately go to wealthier countries. A fair solution would and should have done the opposite – ensure that a higher percentage of any additional revenue made possible by a reform is allocated to those developing countries which are more affected by profit shifting and the pandemic triggered socio-economic crises. Far from ensuring the taxing rights of developing countries, the "solution" will limit the right to tax of source countries to a small proportion of MNCs' profits and entrench taxing rights to headquarter countries over global profits. The institutional arrangement in which these "solutions" are being negotiated lacks transparency and accountability, as negotiations behind closed doors expose developing countries' representatives to political pressures and manipulation.

FINANCIAL REGULATION, FINANCIAL INCLUSION AND DEBT

The G20's 2008 promises to ensure effective regulation of the whole of the financial sector have not been fulfilled. G20 Summit commitments include regulating too big to fail banks and addressing the risks from shadow banking and derivatives markets so that they cannot disrupt the financial system. To avoid over-indebtedness, the G20 has adopted the Operational Guidelines for Sustainable Financing, which commit G20 lenders to share more information with the IMF, but not media, parliaments, and civil society.

The early phases of the COVID crisis exposed the full extent of the unfinished agenda. Beyond the worrisome combination of supply and demand shocks, with sudden drop in commodity prices and the blatant failure of global value chains, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered rapid capital outflows and currency depreciation in Emerging Market Economies (EMEs) and other developing countries, thereby enhancing financial market volatility, and a sharp increase in credit spreads and debt burdens. These dynamics highlighted once again the urgent need to regulate volatile capital flows, also considering that the finance sector is far bigger and more interconnected today than it was before the last financial crisis, given the significant rise of the asset management industry in the absence of adequate regulation. Hyper-financialization of the global economy continued to advance, while the financial needs of developing countries remained unanswered. Not only these dynamics augmented inequalities, including the structural limitations in gaining access to finance by women, Indigenous Peoples and many vulnerable segments of the population, they also magnified speculative flows that are now triggering increased financial risks, financial market volatility and liquidity shortages – for which central banks needed to intervene massively. Overall, finance continues to evolve in directions not consistent with the sustainable development imperatives for people and planet. Current monetary policies by developed countries also contribute to this dynamic.

While public debt of developing countries has steadily increased over the past decade, the COVID-19 pandemic triggered a significant peak in 2020, not only exposing liquidity challenges but also a much deeper and systemic solvency problem. Under the pressure of unsustainable debt levels, developing countries might be forced to implement austerity measures on an unprecedented scale with the risk of further disinvesting from public services and infrastructure which would be urgently required to protect their populations as well as advance socio-economic transformation and ecological transitions. Unfortunately,

the G20 response has been far from being adequate to these challenging circumstances. While taking initial and prompt steps, the scope, impact and extent of coverage of DSSI remained limited, also considering that payments will have to be resumed in either 2022 or 2023 alongside with the servicing of any new debts acquired to face the impacts of the pandemic. The systemic determinants of the debt crisis continue to be underexposed and unaddressed and no ambition debt cancellation agenda appears to be in the making. In fact, debt seems to be falling off the agenda of the G20, also given the unjustified confidence in the virtues of the Common Framework (CF). However, the CF remains creditor-centric, restricts the scope of debt restructuring efforts to a very limited number of countries, fails by design to deliver the extensive debt cancellation to countries in need, and is therefore very far from proving to be an adequate instrument to ensure the mandatory participation of the private sector and multilateral creditors, which have largely by-passed debt relief efforts to date.

The issuance of 650bn SDR is welcome as a source of liquidity in the current conjuncture, but it is not enough to face the constraints and needs of developing countries, being far below the call for a 3tn SDR allocation made by civil society organisations across the world, considering that two thirds of the new allocation remain in high income countries.

GLOBAL SOLIDARITY AND EFFECTIVE AID

In 2009, the G20 promised to increase aid to support social protection and promote development in low-income countries by investing in food security and through voluntary bilateral contributions to the World Bank's Vulnerability Framework. The current pandemic underscores the need for global solidarity and cooperation, especially in supporting developing countries in the current struggle to confront the crisis. Failure to generate additional resources for countries most in need will only prolong the recovery period. Aid in this regard remains critical. The G20 must stay true to their commitment to achieve the 0.7% GNI for ODA and to ensure that high quality of aid is delivered. They must help developing countries directly respond to the impacts of the disease as well as the root causes of poverty and marginalization. Concessional financing is key for developing countries to recover from the crisis without increasing debt.

Priority asks and recommendations

FISCAL TRANSPARENCY, TAXATION, ILLICIT FINANCIAL FLOWS, AND INEQUALITY

A global tax reform agreed in an informal and opaque process, outside the UN system and the participation of accountable country representation, cannot have the legitimacy to be a binding international agreement. A fair global deal is only possible in an open and transparent intergovernmental process, in which the public and civil society can hold negotiators to account for proposals and decisions, and in which the draft agreements are open to public scrutiny. Such a process is only possible within the framework of a UN based intergovernmental negotiations in which countries can participate as equals. G20 Countries should therefore recommit to achieving comprehensive taxation reforms fit for the 21st century to ensure all companies and high-net worth individuals pay due taxes, not just a patch-up applied to a few large highly digitalised multinationals, including by:

- a)** Endorsing developing countries' proposal to establish a universal, intergovernmental tax commission under the auspices of the United Nations to ensure all countries, including developing countries, are at the table to comprehensively review the current international tax system and negotiate international tax standards on truly equal footing. A universal UN intergovernmental tax commission should then negotiate a comprehensive UN multilateral tax convention, a recommendation that has already been called by many developing countries at the UN. Anchoring this process in the UN is crucial to ensure that international tax discussions are in line with global commitments to uphold human rights, gender equality and all dimensions of sustainable development, including the commitments in the Paris Agreement;
- b)** Introducing wealth taxes to the richest population, as a progressive mechanism to increase tax collection at national levels. Such a commitment and endorsement by G20 countries would help many developing countries to increase their income to face the ravages caused by the pandemic;
- c)** Establishing Financial Transactions Taxes (FTTs), as a means to reduce financial market volatility, make economies more resilient and generate urgently needed public investment, both overseas and domestically, strengthen health systems and help pay the costs of the devastating impacts to populations due to the heating of our climate. FTTs would encourage longer-term investments in the real economy, providing a more

solid foundation for economic renewal. This is particularly important as countries rebuild following the pandemic. FTTs dis-incentivise excessive speculative activity, particularly high-frequency trading, and give tax authorities greater oversight over financial activities, helping them to collect tax receipts and battle corruption;

- d)** Undertaking spill-over analyses, where they assess the tax impact of their own tax system and bilateral tax treaties in relation to other countries, especially developing countries.
- e)** Undertaking gender analysis of tax measures and addressing gender gaps;
- f)** Developing a global asset registry to allow for measuring inequality, identifying illicit financial flows (people who cannot justify the origin of their wealth), and applying wealth taxes, if applicable;
- g)** Reviewing the relevance of the OECD's Common Reporting Standard for Automatic Exchange of Information for developing countries and commit to including non-reciprocal exchanges with developing countries during a transition period. In addition, to publish statistics on the total values of deposits held in their territories by jurisdiction of origin of the account holders (at the legal and beneficial ownership level of the account holder);
- h)** Establishing beneficial ownership registries for all legal vehicles (e.g., companies, partnerships, trusts, foundations) to be publicly accessible online and for free, in an open data format, and to ensure that registered information will be verified;
- i)** Publishing country-by-country reports of all multinational enterprises headquartered in their territories to be publicly accessible online and for free, in an open data format.

FINANCIAL REGULATION AND FINANCIAL INCLUSION

As a self-proclaimed guardian of global financial stability, the G20 needs to re-affirm the importance of multilateralism and promote a new strategy of global cooperation to tackle the current multilayer crisis and the financial stability risks that it entails. In addition, it should promote ambitious financial reforms to ensure that the banking sector and all other financial players, and the financial system as a whole, are brought back to proper democratic accountability to support sustainable societies and real economies, and adapt to developing countries' financial priorities, including the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement. The G20 can agree on particular measures thereto, including by:

a) Accepting the importance of, and the use of, capital flow management to prevent excessive speculative capital inflows, capital flight and currency depreciation. In addition, it is essential to limit speculative trading and passive investment to stop herd-like behaviour that results in declines in currency and asset prices. The G20 should also urge the IMF to support central banks of developing countries to avoid subsidiaries of global banks in their country withdraw reserves and capital, as took place in 2008-2009. Furthermore, the G20 should fully support, both within the United Nations and the Bretton Woods Institutions, a new global consensus for countries to apply smart capital controls, with flexibility for each member state, allowing developing countries to protect themselves against financial market behaviour out of their control. In this context, the G20 should promote a positive revision of the IMF's Institutional View, invite the OECD to stop demanding more countries to adhere to the Code of Liberalisation of Capital Movements and revise articles in trade and investment treaties that forbid a flexible management of capital flows;

b) Encouraging the IMF to establish a swap-type facility, using the IMF's hard-currency resources, to complement existing swap lines among major economies and provide emergency financial support, if and when necessary, to emerging and developing countries. Furthermore, G20 central banks, with internationally traded currencies, should markedly expand their existing swap lines, beyond favoured trade partners, to include developing countries;

c) Abstaining from unilateral deregulation measures and further regulate Systemically Important Financial Institutions (SIFIs) to reduce their size, interconnectedness and complexity. Asset management and other shadow banking companies should disclose information which would allow proper monitoring of leverage, volume of securities lending, operational risks and liquidity mismatches. Regulators should be empowered to determine when their size, interconnectedness, investment strategies and complexity warrant designating them as systemically important and subjecting them to higher monitoring and regulations. Financial market and bank regulations that are being relaxed in response to COVID-19 should still have clear, strict conditions to be held accountable to, even during an emergency. For instance, relaxed regulations should only apply to those banks that will not distribute dividends based on their profits of last year and in 2021, nor pay back shares, and do not award bonuses, requiring a retaining of profits to strengthen buffers. Financial and central bank rescue

packages should be conditioned to prevent financing of environmentally, climate and socially harmful activities;

d) Undertaking measures against new systemic threats and financial risks by strictly monitoring, regulating, supervising and limiting the expansion of securitization and derivatives trading, short selling and algorithm based automated trading, unregulated shadow banking, investment fund industry and asset management, concentration of credit rating agencies and the rapid development of fintech. In addition, ensuring that entities that issue, trade or exchange crypto-currencies (i.e. bitcoins) are regulated and supervised to prevent money laundering, e.g. by identifying the beneficial owners of such crypto-currencies. Overall, it is essential to further the reallocation of resources from speculative strategies to financing sustainable economies;

e) The COVID-19 measures will have an impact that increases the existing inequality based on a rentier economy. Many wealth asset and company owners have safeguarded their wealth and their volatile investments have been supported by central bank liquidity provisions. Governments should not foot the bill for a financial system that rewarded the rich through share buy-backs while not increasing wages and avoiding taxes. The COVID-19 stimulus packages should be accompanied by a prohibition of share buy backs and bonuses, as well as extra taxes on wealthy individuals, companies that are paying dividends, and companies that are profiting extra-ordinarily from the COVID-19 situation;

f) Reversing the financial exclusion of non-profit organisations (NPOs) due to risk and cost aversion by banks in complying with anti-money laundering and counter-terrorism financing (AML-CTF) laws and regulations, by effective steps by G20 states in collaboration with the Financial Action Task Force (FATF), the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII), the World Bank, and NPOs; resulting in robust sectoral Risk Assessments that lead to targeted, proportionate and effective measures which do not hamper legitimate charitable activity in any way;

g) Agreeing on standards that promote a more diverse banking system in all countries, including state-owned and development banks at the regional and local levels, as well as saving, ethical and cooperative banks, and non-profit institutions. The banking system should address the gender gaps in women's financial inclusion, and ensure finance to rural economy, small and medium enterprises, non-formal sector and marginalized social groups;

h) Ensuring that international banking rules are proportionate and consistent with the social functions of community, cooperative and ethical banks. Simplified requirements for small and non-complex institution should not be restricted to disclosure requirements, but also extend to other prudential and supervision requirements. In defining capital requirements, bank regulators should introduce a “green and social supporting factor” to reduce capital absorption for financing granted by banks to social economy enterprises and those enterprises which are genuinely involved in sustainable and inclusive development programmes.

DEBT AND EMERGENCY FINANCING

Many countries were in debt distress before the COVID-19 crisis began. Many more will emerge from this crisis with even higher unsustainable debts. Immediate cancellation of debt payments should therefore be linked to a more comprehensive and long-term approach to debt crisis resolution. To make debt restructuring more efficient, equitable and successful we call for:

- a)** Cancelling debt payments is the fastest way to keep money in countries and free up resources to tackle the urgent health, social and economic crises resulting from the Covid-19 pandemic. We urgently call for the cancellation of all external debt payments due to be made in 2021 and 2022, including middle income countries, in the face of the struggling global economy and the unequal recovery pathways. All principal, interest and charges on sovereign external debt due in 2021 and 2022 should be cancelled immediately and permanently and should therefore not accrue into the future. The proposed debt relief should involve official bilateral, multilateral banks (both global and regional ones) and private creditors. All debt relief should be designed without economic reform conditionalities attached, while ensuring funds and public expenditure are targeted at protecting the rights and needs of populations, especially to maintain and increase social protection and health spending for those most in need in response to the crisis. The provision of emergency additional finance should not create additional debt;
- b)** The G20 to promote and support the creation through the United Nations of a systematic, comprehensive and enforceable process for sovereign debt restructurings to ensure timely and orderly debt crisis resolution and comprehensive creditor coordination as well as to prevent negative fiscal and social impacts of protracted debt crises;

c) The G20 to work with other stakeholders, including civil society, within the framework of the United Nations on a Global Consensus on Responsible Lending and Borrowing. In the same context, the G20 should also promote adequate regulation of credit rating agencies to avoid the possible downgrading of developing countries in debt distress and/or engaged in debt restructuring process induced by the COVID-19 crisis;

d) The G20 should call for the establishment of legislation in key jurisdictions governing sovereign bond contracts, namely the UK and the State of New York, to prevent litigation by creditors against countries suspending debt payments to prioritise COVID-19 measures, and in particular countries requesting suspension of official payments under the G20 DSSI. To prevent holdout behaviour by bondholders, these jurisdictions should also introduce legislation to ensure that all bond contracts include that an agreement to restructure by a super-majority of bondholders is binding on all bondholders. Furthermore, G20 Governments need to go beyond encouragement of voluntary and ad hoc debt relief by private bond holders, and support and participate in the renewal of discussions in the UN system to design a global solution, and a permanent structure, to resolve over-indebtedness and repayment problems through adequate debt restructuring mechanisms, based on debt sustainability assessments that consider the impacts of SDG and climate financing requirements;

e) The G20 should support action by any indebted developing country to stop making payments on debt to private external lenders and investors who are unresponsive to debt relief calls and proposals. Over the last years, private investors and investment fund managers have been increasingly taken higher risks by buying Emerging Markets and “frontier” countries’ bonds, as the IMF (Financial Stability Reports, 2019) has warned. Now these private bond holders are unwilling to absorb the financial risks they willingly took. We therefore renew our call on G20 countries to engage with these private lenders and investors in their constituency and persuade them to cancel at least any debt servicing or coupon payments of developing country debt due for 2021 and 2022, to allow recovery;

f) Some large private bondholders are big asset managers and private financial institutions that are either getting direct financial support from G20 central banks or involved in managing relief and recovery packages by Central Banks and other public authorities. In such instances, we urge G20 Governments and Central Banks to make financial support and partnerships with such private entities, including the Institute

for International Finance (IIF), conditional and explicit on their participation in stand-stills and debt relief, based on debt sustainability assessments. It must also be noted that the weight of the EM bond market and investment funds also puts global financial stability at risk;

g) The G20 should invite the IMF to introduce clear guidelines on when a debt is unsustainable and follow its policy to lend to countries with challenging debts exposure only if their creditors are cooperating with them on debt restructuring. The G20 should also push for further improvement in standard approaches to debt sustainability assessments (IMF-WB LIC DSF and MAC DSA), including through consideration of Agenda 2030 financing requirements and human rights obligations, and ensure a widened focus to better capture contingent liabilities, private external debt, domestic debt and state-owned enterprise debt;

h) Transparency of official debt needs to be improved by all actors involved. All loans and debt instruments to governments (of any income level), or with government guarantees, should be publicly disclosed before and when they are given. In this respect, the G20 should ensure that a publicly accessible registry of loan and debt data is created and housed in a permanent institution, with the required ongoing funding. Civil society, parliaments and media should be consulted on its construction so that the data is open, standardised and structured, and therefore readily usable. Information should be made available in English and the main language of the borrowing country concerned. G20 Governments should commit to disclosing all loan details and pass legislation in all relevant legislatures, to require all lenders to equally disclose loans to governments in this registry;

i) Private investors, lenders, investment banks (underwriters), bond holders and asset managers should all have a due diligence responsibility not to lend or buy bonds that creates excessive governmental and corporate debt by using official debt sustainability and SDG financing assessments. Debt relief by official lenders should be accompanied by compulsory measures to ensure that the private sector offers similar debt relief and is not repaid by official debt relief funds;

j) The G20 should ensure that emergency financing does not further compound debt vulnerabilities and is provided as unconditional grant-financing to developing countries that have urgent needs of fiscal resources. It is also critical to scale-up ODA commitment, expand eligibility criteria for concessional lending by international financial

institutions and ensure that decisions on emergency financing are free from geopolitical considerations. It is also essential that any fiscal stimulus packages are designed to (1) strengthen public systems, particularly health, education and social protection, (2) increase levels of employment with all necessary labour safeguard requirements to ensure decent work, and 3) support a just transition to tackle the climate challenge;

k) The G20 needs to ensure the final approval of the new allocation of Special Drawing Rights. At the same time, this should be accompanied by the creation of mechanisms (i.e. amendments of existing facilities, new Trust Fund) that would allow the voluntary transfer of unused SDRs from developed economies to LICs and MICs in need, maintaining the essence of the allocation, concessional and no conditional terms;

l) Financial support measures and the exit path out of the crisis require a global consensus that avoids imposing accelerated fiscal consolidations and austerity measures, especially for developing countries. All measures need to refrain from conditioning short-term policies choices that may cause more harm in the medium-term.

INFRASTRUCTURE FINANCING

Relevant G20 commitments and current challenges

For many years, infrastructure has been a major theme for the G20. 'Infrastructure for development' was a priority under the 2018 Argentinean presidency, when G20 Finance Ministers agreed that mobilising additional private capital was needed to meet global infrastructure needs, and they endorsed the G20's [Roadmap to Infrastructure as an Asset Class](#). Following up on this, the 2019 Japanese presidency focused on the issue of quality infrastructure, and launched the [G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment](#) ('QII Principles'). These 'QII Principles' emphasise that quality infrastructure is an essential part of the G20's ongoing efforts to close the infrastructure gap. Meanwhile, in 2020 the Saudi Arabian presidency endorsed the [Riyadh InfraTech Agenda](#), which promotes the use of technology in infrastructure, with the aim of improving investment decisions, among other objectives. Finally, the [2021 Italian presidency continues](#) to move this agenda forward, which includes continuing the dialogue between public and private investors to mobilise private capital, and a focus on infrastructure resilience and maintenance.

The G20's infrastructure agenda seeks to address infrastructure needs by mobilising private and institutional investment through the development of 'infrastructure as an asset class' and the promotion of public-private partnerships. This involves standardising the infrastructure project cycle across the world, including contracts, and transforming them into financial instruments which are easy to buy and sell, and which provide an attractive revenue stream for investors. The aim is to mitigate risks for investors, as infrastructure projects are inherently risky and frequently unprofitable, particularly in low-income countries which are often characterised by poor governance. However, the risks are likely to be passed to the public sector in the form of contingent liabilities. Moreover, this agenda threatens infrastructure quality by reducing essential public oversight and accountability as well as weakening environmental and social standards. It further exacerbates the unequal power relations between countries of the Global North and South, diminishing the sovereign rights of the latter, including to self-determination. These problems are likely to intensify as a result of the economic crisis. G20's adoption of the QII Principles in 2019 was welcomed by the C20 as an indication that it was moving beyond a narrow focus on financing and committing to a more comprehensive approach. However, the indicators to implement the 'QII Principles' are still to be agreed. The Covid-19 pandemic

has certainly put G20's infrastructure agenda to the test.

The Covid-19 pandemic is an era-defining event with far-reaching consequences for how we build and maintain infrastructure as well as deliver vital public services. It has already exposed the weaknesses of public health systems that have been privatised, poorly regulated and in many cases, subject to swingeing cuts under austerity measures. In many instances these measures were the result of the conditionalities attached to financing from multilateral development banks. Infrastructure underpins most of the SDGs, so the task of increasing the volume and quality of investment is one of great urgency. Many of the vulnerabilities that have been exposed by the pandemic also require investment in infrastructure, including importantly addressing chronic underinvestment in social infrastructure. We should therefore avoid framing efforts to achieve the SDGs as competing with the response to the pandemic and efforts to rebuild our economies, as in many ways they are the same challenge, and both can be addressed most effectively through a coordinated effort. However, it is clear that the pandemic has substantially compromised progress towards achieving infrastructure and other related goals.

One important global trend is the emergence of international initiatives that focus on filling-in the so-called infrastructure gap. Underpinning this agenda is the interest in connecting major economies with new and established markets and provide access to primary products. These initiatives include the China's 'Belt and Road Initiative', the European Union's EU-Asia Connectivity Strategy, and the recently launched [G7's Build Back Better World \(B3W\)](#). While these initiatives place infrastructure centre stage in regional and international development plans, they heavily rely on attracting private finance to infrastructure projects. This gives rise to concerns about indebtedness, development impacts, and of being more concerned with the geopolitical interests of the countries backing them rather than with the priorities of the recipient countries. Moreover, this transforms countries' developmental agenda, often leading to prioritising mega-projects that aim to integrate developing countries into global value chains, also contributing to locking countries into export dependency and preventing economic diversification. Another relevant trend refers to the push for developing 'sustainable' infrastructure projects. While it is clear that badly designed infrastructure projects have the capacity to lock countries into a high-carbon future, there is not enough clarity on what 'sustainable' actually means, and it is crucial to avoid any 'greenwashing' of infrastructure plans.

Priority asks and recommendations

The outbreak of the Covid-19 pandemic has only intensified the need for investing in infrastructure that prioritises local capacities, conditions and needs, particularly those linked to resilient infrastructure that supports socio-economic transformation and public services.

a) Scale up publicly financed infrastructure, particularly in social sectors, and take a careful approach to the promotion of private finance for infrastructure. Public financing is often less costly, more sustainable and more directly accountable to citizens than private financing. Moreover, public interventions are critical for social equity reasons or where social returns are much larger than private returns. The G20 should rethink its infrastructure financing proposals to allow for a resilient and equitable recovery. This requires:

- Putting in place an ambitious plan at the international level to increase domestic resource mobilisation. Clamping down on losses of public resources through tax dodging, dealing with unsustainable debts through a debt workout mechanism, increasing levels and quality of international concessional resources, including through meeting ODA commitments, and creating new sources of public financing would all be a key contribution to ensuring adequate fiscal and policy space to bridging the global infrastructure gap and thus achieving the SDGs;
- Rethinking an infrastructure finance agenda focused on developing 'infrastructure as an asset class', and promoting public-private partnerships, which risk undermining progress on meeting the SDGs. Developing country governments should get support to develop their capabilities to make informed choices as to the most appropriate financing sources for infrastructure provision. Investment from private sources might be appropriate in some circumstances, but only when democratically owned development plans are followed, high quality and equitable public services are prioritised, and international standards of transparency and accountability are met. National governments should preserve their capacity to regulate in the public interest;

b) Improve the quality and sustainability of infrastructure, including its systemic considerations. Investment in sustainable infrastructure is key for achieving sustainable development and for improving the living conditions of people living in developing countries, in line with the Sustainable Development Goals, the Paris Agreement and commitments on gender equality. Infrastructure refers to 'the structures and facilities that are necessary for the functioning of the economy and society'.¹ These are roads,

¹ Chong and Poole, 2013 <https://www.rba.gov.au/publications/bulletin/2013/sep/pdf/bu-0913-8.pdf>

electricity and telecommunication networks, water and sewerage facilities, schools and hospitals. This implies understanding infrastructure in a broad sense, away from a distinction between 'economic' and 'social' infrastructure, as both economic and social issues are indivisible aspects of a transformational approach.² Sustainable infrastructure is key to strategies towards socio-economic transformation and a resilient recovery. If governments and multilateral institutions are serious about this agenda, sustainable infrastructure and its financing mechanisms must be rooted in human rights and socio-economic transformation, high standards of democratic accountability, and contribute to climate resilience. G20 should implement the 'QII Principles' by agreeing on indicators that reflect a true commitment on quality, sustainability and good governance. This requires:

- Integrating resilience into planning and delivery systems. New and existing infrastructure must be designed and adapted to withstand, respond to and recover rapidly from disruptions related to climate change. This requires strengthening public institutions, improving design standards and supporting the development of community led infrastructure and decentralised systems in addition to largescale and centralised systems. It also requires considering the disproportionate impact of disruptions on the lives of girls and women and transgender people due to existing inequalities and gender-based roles and adopting measures to reduce and eventually eliminate them;
- Prioritising measures aimed at improving governance. The governance of infrastructure concerns the prioritisation, planning, financing, regulating, contracting and delivery of the built assets and associated services that are essential for economic growth and human development. Poor governance occurs when these things are opaque, poorly managed and when they fail to prioritise the needs of people and the environment. G20 countries should adopt international standards of transparency, accountability and good governance such as the Open Contracting for Infrastructure Data Standard (OC4IDS) and the Open Contracting Data Standard (OCDS);
- Promoting people-centred regional connectivity. Regional infrastructure connectivity should be planned and implemented with the goal of meeting peoples' needs as its highest priority. This includes creating decent jobs, stimulating local economic development, protecting the environment, reducing inequality, promoting gender equality and social inclusion and building peace. Finance will be needed from MDBs and other sources, but they should work in genuine partnership with representative regional bodies, recipient countries and affected communities.

² Elson, D., Cagatay, N., 2000. The Social Content of Macroeconomic Policies. World Dev. 28, 1347–1364.

SUSTAINABLE FINANCE

Relevant G20 commitments and current challenges

The C20 looks with interest at the establishment of a permanent Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG). However, we regret that the stakeholder involvement has so far privileged the dialogue with private financial sector, despite civil society being at the forefront of the issues, exposing a systemic analysis of the long-term risks as well as having clear insights of the multilayered impacts of unsustainable finance patterns. While the SFWG is developing a specific agenda, sustainable finance cannot be considered in isolation from the entire package of system reforms proposed within the C20 policy recommendations. In this context, it is essential to reaffirm that sustainable development pathways and just transitions cannot be financed through market-based mechanism only. They require public policies and investments as well as a critical focus on market regulation as capital movements and the decision-making structures of the private financial sector are inadequate and far too slow to meet the imperatives ahead of all of us, notwithstanding the many initiatives being undertaken. Only approx. 1% of the bond market is composed of green bonds and standards are still not very strict. Since the Paris agreement, global banks have financed \$ 3.8 trillion in fossil fuels and the majority of financing by both banks and asset managers continued to be climate harmful, leading to large amounts of future stranded assets. The EIA report (May 2021) advised to put zero more money in fossil fuel exploration. The combined NDC commitments and COVID recovery budgets are not aligned with the Paris emission goals although they should provide the roadmap and amount of financing needed to achieve the Paris goals.

It is therefore deeply concerning that:

- Laws and regulations are still missing to phase-out financing for climate changing, environmentally destructive and human rights breaching activities, and to phase-in the financing of a just transition; market signals, science-based taxonomies and standards that are not mandatory will not sufficiently orient the needed hundreds of billions of dollars from the private sector to a speedy transition in all countries across the globe;
- The SFWG focuses on avoiding market fragmentation because it is costly for the global private financial industry. In contrast, leadership in setting standards and heeding demands from citizens for high standards or specific country adaptation need to be accommodated while agreeing on basic principles;

- It is worrisome that ODA may be used to subsidize private finance, through blended finance instruments. Doing so has a high opportunity cost and means that lower income countries only can rely for their financing on the market with a financial industry that wants to avoid risks and get high profits.

Priority asks and recommendations

In this context, the key C20 proposals regarding SFWG potential deliverables are as follows:

- a)** All G20 measures that are being proposed in the policy mix should be oriented not only to avoid climate risks for the financial sector but also to implement a just transition. Low to higher income developing countries should be fully participating so that their needs are being met and the negative impacts of any new G20 measures (e.g. a carbon tax) avoided. The wealthier G20 countries should fully implement the \$100bn climate finance commitment. Relief and cancellation of existing debt, which becomes difficult to repay due to COVID-19, has to be swiftly provided so that countries have fiscal space to finance Paris climate alignment and SDGs (see debt section);
- b) Global reporting standards and data** should: 1) not only cover climate risks but also environmental, social and governance risks and impacts (“double materiality”); 2) involve and benefit all stakeholders, including civil society; 3) the data gaps and uncertainties should not serve as excuses to delay financiers from stopping to finance fossil fuels, especially not financing any new fossil fuel exploration and sources (as the IEA has called for): the data about climate change are clear enough;
- c) Taxonomy standards** should: 1) be sufficiently flexible to address particular regional or national needs while those choices should be science-based to avoid greenwashing; 2) recognize that voluntary application of taxonomies by financing that claims to be green or sustainable are no longer an option; 3) promote comprehensive application, covering social & environmentally harmful activities (do no harm principle) - it is especially urgent that developed countries develop not only green taxonomies but also taxonomies that identify those economic activities that harm and undermine the most climate goals so that it becomes clear what to transition out of, and where the risky assets are being sold or transferred to;
- d) Aligning investments with Paris and SDGs** and prevent misallocation of (speculative) capital by: 1) setting out roadmaps with intermediate financial targets (2025, 2030 etc. up to 2050) to finance a just transition, including through regulation; 2) en-

sure that market interest rates for lower income countries and tax avoidance do not hinder the financing of their just transition; 3) financing of SDGs in a climate friendly way should get particular attention and be supported by measures that prevent capital to be spent on speculative and other financial products and transactions that do not contribute to a just transition;

e) Role of IFIs and MDBs and NDBs should be to: 1) fully align their financing to the SDGs and Paris climate goals; 2) fully focus on investing in innovative companies, projects and strategies that achieve a just transition, especially in developing countries; 3) avoid partnering with a private financial sector that does not align with Paris goals and the SDGs;

f) Setting a Most Progressive Standard Rule for investments similar to the most-favored-nation (MFN) clause requiring a financial institution to apply the highest environmental, social and governance regulations, policies and standards established in one market to all other countries;

g) The SFWG multi-year roadmap should: 1) ensure the private and public financial sector publicly discloses clear time-bound targets and strategies to be aligned with the Paris Climate agreement and the SDGs, which are verifiable; 2) safeguard not only the financial sector from climate risks, but also ensure that climate, environmental and social risks and impacts from all companies and their financiers on citizens are disclosed and negative impacts addressed (incl. double materiality, ESG due diligence); 3) ensure that incentives to achieve the Paris agreement and the SDGs support the poor, small businesses and low income countries, and do not result in undue private profits e.g. when de-risking private creditors; 4) support capacity building at all levels of society in all countries to contribute and finance to the Paris goals and the SDGs; 5) provide the pathway to regulate and supervise ESG data and rating companies to increase their transparency about their methodologies, their integrity, the quality and verification of their data (including research reports from academia and civil society), and ensure they deal with ESG impacts beyond financial materiality; 6) encourage coordination among central banks, ministries of finance, regulators, and supervisors, as regards short term and long term ESG risks as well as ESG impacts on the financial sector and on society ('double materiality').

TRADE & DEVELOPMENT

Relevant G20 commitments and current challenges

The basis for post-Pandemic recovery in trade – according with G20 Italian presidency – is openness, transparency, fairness, and sustainability. This order of priorities is not the one that is needed now. The 2030 Agenda international trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction, and an important means to achieve the SDGs. But if we really want to deliver the best recovery for People and the Planet in Prosperity through trade, we need to prioritize - before openness – sustainability and fairness as well as constantly assess trade real contribution – along Global Value Chains (GVC) in particular – to job creation, welfare, public health and regeneration of natural heritage and biodiversity.

We agree with the G20 Presidency that “it is essential to make sure that the post-COVID business environment is more inclusive and sustainable”. But to achieve this objective the priority should be to ensure policy coherence in trade to ensure sustainable development. Initial assessments on trade spillover effects on achieving the 2030 Agenda show that, when the quantity and quality of employment, the climate-changing impact of production and the contribution of taxation of individuals and businesses conditions are not properly considered, the critical focus on creating wellbeing equally distributed among the citizens while respecting the environment and ensuring a multidimensional recovery from the pandemic can be compromised.³

The G20 Italian presidency stated that subsidizing our economies cannot continue indefinitely during the COVID-19 pandemic, imposing an urgent reflection on how and when to unwind subsidies. As underlined by various international institutions, we already experimented before COVID 19 a prolonged period of trade and financial liberalization which limited the role of the public sector and restricted the policy space to both respond to economic shocks and advance a transformative agenda for multidimensional development.⁴

We therefore share the concerns expressed by several UN organization on the misplaced optimism in the rules, practices and policies of the hyper-globalized economy. These concerns are reinforced by the lack of progress in strengthening international cooperation during years of widespread economic crisis culminating with COVID 19, and the persistent stalemate in strengthening flexibilities of the multilateral trade system in

⁴ Check for references Eurostat 2021 Sdg Report 2021

⁵ UNCTAD, Trade and Development Report 2015 <https://unctad.org/webflyer/trade-and-development-report-2015>

defense of global health, to the exclusive advantage of private profits, as evident in the case of post-COVID vaccines, goods and services.⁵ This path led to a world of growing economic inequalities, arrested development, financial fragility, and unsustainable use of natural resources, even before the pandemic hit.

A reform of the World Trade Organization (WTO) is long overdue. Civil society has been reflecting for many years on the effectiveness of the current rules of international trade and whether they qualify as an effective and progressive development tool, especially at a time when, for many countries, progress towards the 2030 Agenda risks to be pushed back again. As emphasized by more than 200 organizations in a recent letter to WTO members, “legitimate global commercial rules should facilitate the improvement of the livelihoods, health and wellbeing of all people around the world and the long-term survival of the planet. The WTO system has not met these goals”.⁶ This mission was impossible to achieve in a member-driven organization where the logic of “this for that” prevails over public interest. Without a global labour protection floor, a race to the bottom has repressed wage growth and increased precarious work. The climate, biodiversity, and poverty crises have been underestimated, as well as the rise in inequality within and between nations, while States have been limited in their capacity to choose the most suitable economic and commercial measures to foster a balance between economic, environmental, and social benefits.

The failure of the system was evident when it proved impossible for most countries to make or obtain masks, test kits, ventilators, medicines, and other necessary equipment. Decades of WTO rules allowed concentration in global production to maximize profits, ideologically and legally preventing Member States to ensure local production and diversity of import suppliers. It is possible to design production networks, identify suitable production sites and precisely quantify required costs for this ambitious mid-and-long-term goal. It would take less than a year to do so even in the case of vaccines. But developing countries consensus demands were and continue to be ignored, not only in the case of the TRIPS waiver, but also with respect to the Doha Development agenda, which was promised in 2001 as a sign of renewed unity in the “fight against terrorism”.

Against this state of affairs, the sovereignty of States needs to be urgently reaffirmed. The intervention of States in national economies must be allowed in manners that are transparent, proportionate and coherent to the development objectives encompassed in the Agenda 2030. Public investments are key for an effective and resilient recovery as

well as a strong public health that ensures the quality public provision of critical services. Finally, it is important to make regional and territorial systems less dependent on international exchanges and strengthen their resilience to occasional supply chain breakdowns due to adverse social, health or climatic events. Re-localization, shorter supply chains and self-sufficiency are inevitable and desirable consequences of the pandemic, and ones that could support fairer social and better environmental outcomes. In order to strengthen such domestic economic transformation, national financial systems should be aligned by reconsidering financial services and capital flow liberalization commitments in trade and investment treaties.

Priority asks and recommendations

MULTILATERAL TRADE AND INVESTMENT AGENDA FOR A SUSTAINABLE RECOVERY

The G20 must primarily lead by example undertaking mandatory human rights, labor and environmental impact assessment of multilateral, plurilateral and bilateral trade and investment agreements, especially North-South agreements, focusing on the rights to sustainable development, and the specific rights to food, health, and livelihood taking into account the impact on marginalized groups.

Human rights due diligence is a crucial means to manage risks in corporate supply chains. Making robust human rights due diligence part of standard business practice in GVCs is key to advancing corporate respect for human rights and to achieving the SDGs. As the public sector owns and/or funds the largest supply chains in many countries, we call on G20 Governments to promote adequate regulation and self-monitoring to ensure human rights due diligence. Furthermore, we invite G20 Governments to support the efforts to approve the UN binding Treaty on Business and Human Rights.

We further demand adequate Social and Environmental Impact Assessments including on inequality, on job creation and the quality of employment, on the contribution to resilience, biodiversity and climate stability, with regards to current, and any potential future changes to WTO policies and negotiations. These assessments will certainly expose the urgency to effect necessary changes to existing rules to ensure full compliance of the multilateral trade system.

Continuing business as usual is not an option, not only for the social stability of communities and the climate crisis in which we are immersed, but also for the economic

⁵ UNCTAD. (2021). Out of the frying pan ... Into the fire? Trade and Development Report Update. <https://unctad.org/webflyer/out-frying-pan-fire>

⁶ <https://www.citizen.org/article/over-200-organizations-from-67-countries-say-fundamentally-transform-the-wto-the-wtos-own-policies-have-caused-its-existential-crisis-which-the-covid-19-crisis-only-amplified/>

ineffectiveness of these policies. We therefore ask the G20 to play a decisive role in innovation of trade policies, to strengthen a multilateral agenda focused on economic, social and environmental justice through open, coherent and participatory processes of policy coherence for sustainable development, while also guaranteeing greater dialogue with social partners and civil society.

PROMOTE TRANSPARENT AND CONSENSUS-DRIVEN MANAGEMENT OF THE WTO

The G20 must acknowledge that this is not the time to break the consensual management of trade rules within WTO and to expand the agenda with like-minded format for discussions and/or plurilateral negotiations, without a serious and thoughtful assessment of the development, economic and geopolitical effects of these steps. This is the time to cooperate and strengthen dialogue with social constituencies and with the labor force and trade unions. Multilateralism is the space that permits nations to regulate international markets and to pursue strategies for equitable and sustainable prosperity and development. This is not the time for a tug-of-war between ‘like-minded’ members: “no one is safe until everyone is” remains the main lesson of the pandemic.

REAFFIRM POLICY SPACE FOR STATES AND THEIR PUBLIC INTERVENTION FOR A REAL RECOVERY

An enabling international environment for development is one that allows every State to pursue development objectives according to its own priorities, with policies of its own choice, in coherence with international commitments. To ensure such a policy space, it is necessary to reform multilateral and bilateral trade arrangements to allow the use of all those economic policies which might be needed to transform the industrial capacity and organization of each country so that it may become more resilient and sustainable for the environment, workers and consumers as well as more linked to the internal/regional market and less dependent and exposed to external and global shocks.⁷

Disproportionate subsidies that generate unfair competition in regional or global markets, and support intensive agriculture, fossil fuels and other production practices which are harmful to the environment and people, must be overcome in the short and medium term. The possibility of using infant industry protection should be recognized in any WTO negotiations on non-agricultural market access (NAMA) including negotiations on

sectorals, Information Technology Agreement (ITA) and environmental goods.

A permanent solution for public stockholding for food security by developing countries along the lines of the G-33 proposal in the WTO must be agreed in order to ensure food security and long-term agricultural production growth across the developing world.

Finally, the severity of development challenges generated by bilateral investment treaties and free trade agreements is acutely highlighted by the Investor-State Dispute Settlement (ISDS) mechanisms. The Investor-State-Dispute-Settlement clause allows transnational corporations to sue governments in closed-door international arbitration cases for extraordinary financial sums. In a growing number of cases, arbitrations were requested against regulations related to health and environmental concerns that could harm current or future potential corporate profits. This phenomenon is freezing public interest policy regulation worldwide. This provision, in a world made unstable by climate change and a pandemic scenario that may not be resolved in the short term, is completely unacceptable.

SUPPORT THE TRIPS WAIVER AND CLOSELY EXAMINE GLOBAL VALUE CHAINS

We call on G20 members to support the revised request for a TRIPS Waiver including diagnostics, therapeutics, vaccines, medical devices, personal protective equipment, as well as their materials or components and their methods and means of manufacture for the prevention, treatment or containment of COVID-19 brought by South Africa and India to the Council for Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights of the World Trade Organization (IP/C/W/669/Rev.1). This decision shall be immediately finalized, well before the WTO Ministerial Conference (MC 12) which is due at the end of the year.

A vaccine is a necessary but by no means sufficient condition to bring the pandemic and its aftermath under control. Whereas the G20 Italian Presidency foresees new opportunities to invest in Intellectual Property Rights (IPRs), we are deeply concerned with the potential impact that any enforcement of IPRs in TRIPS may play on public health. A strong action is urgent to make vaccines and treatments accessible for all! C20, together with Labour 20 and Women 20, called on the G20 to immediately and unhesitantly support the waiver of the TRIPS agreement on COVID-19 vaccines and treatments.⁸

⁷ <https://civil-20.org/2021/wp-content/uploads/2021/06/C20-L20-W20-2nd-TRIPS-statement-june-4th-2021.pdf>

⁸ <https://civil-20.org/2021/wp-content/uploads/2021/02/C20-L20-TRIPS-statement.pdf>

⁷ See the contribution by Third World Network to the discussion about the Goals and Targets of the 2030 Agenda <https://www.un.org/esa/ffd/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/10Dec14-statement-TWN-trade.pdf>

Furthermore, it is time to closely examine the functioning as well as the social and environmental impact of GVCs in all sector. The imposition of restrictions by several governments on strategic exports and the shortage of supply caused by the sudden increase in demand, highlighted the dependence of many countries on imports in critical sectors such as public health, energy and food. The need to reduce this external dependence and re-regionalize strategic sectors appeared as a common and urgent objective, also to tackle raising climate impact of digitalized trade as well.⁹ Industrial and trade policies would need to be reformulated under an integrated approach aimed at expanding value addition and creating jobs while protecting the environment and addressing public needs. Development Cooperation and South-South cooperation should also play an important role in increasing the contribution of Developing, including Least Developed Countries (LDCs), to global production. Reconsidering financial services and capital flow liberalization in trade and investment agreements should also promote domestic financial systems more aligned to transformational efforts towards vibrant and sustainable domestic economies.

GUARANTEE ACCESS TO QUALITY ESSENTIAL PUBLIC SERVICES

Progressive liberalization of services, while providing potential opportunities, involves significant challenges including possible negative effects on access by the marginalized social groups to essential services (like water, health and education) and conflicts with the human rights obligations of WTO members.¹⁰ Authoritative voices, including from the United Nations, insisted over the last twenty years on the urgent need for governments for undertake public, independent and transparent assessments of the impact of liberalization policies - both past ones as well as future options - on the enjoyment of human rights, through a participatory and consultative process with concerned individuals and groups.

A human rights approach, particularly after a pandemic, must be ensured: this requires a constant examination of trade laws and policies to assess human rights outcomes in healthcare, education, food security and so on. In this respect, it is critical that such assessments, as well as any consultative process for negotiations, not only involve trade and industry ministries and their immediate stakeholders, but also those dealing with the full array of related social issues. It is hence essential to have “a cautious approach” to the setting of trade policy and rules, based on “sound evidence” that any strategy will actually promote the realization of human rights rather than only increased investments or economic growth.

⁹<https://en.reset.org/knowledge/our-digital-carbon-footprint-whats-the-environmental-impact-online-world-12302019-and-https://edition.cnn.com/2020/02/26/tech/greenhouse-gas-emissions-retail/index.html>

¹⁰E/CN.4/Sub.2/2002/9, “Liberalization of trade in services and human rights” <https://documents-dds-ny.un.org/doc/UNDOC/GEN/G02/141/14/PDF/G0214114.pdf?OpenElement>

ENSURING ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY IN TRADE.

Since the discussions that preceded the Doha Declaration, civil society warned WTO members that the relationship between trade and environment, as addressed within the WTO, was threatening to let trade rules further encroach into the regulatory scope of Multilateral Environmental Agreements (MEAs), instead of consolidating the rights of MEAs to limit trade liberalization whenever it poses a threat to a safe and healthy environment.¹¹

Our main recommendation for the G20, considering the stalemate of the Doha Development Agenda and the need to accelerate action to tackle climate change, is to consider that more suitable alternatives to the WTO actually exist, both for revisiting the principles dictating the WTO/MEA relationship and for settling disputes between trade and environment matters.

The acceleration of WTO negotiations on reducing tariffs on ‘Environmental Goods and Services’ risks not being ambitious and effective enough, also because the list of ‘environmental goods and services’ includes, for example, incinerators and steam generators that are used in carbon energy generation, and public utilities such as waste disposal that would be consequently liberalized and which in no way can they be scientifically defined as ‘green’ or useful for the ecological transition.

In order to examine how multilateral trade rules can support the global transition towards a climate-neutral and resilient economy, we suggest a review of the balance between rules on IPR protection and technology transfer, as also suggested by UNCTAD, to encourage and widen access to innovation in digital and/or green technologies, such as those related to renewable energy and the circular economy. This matter could be part of the discussion on WTO reform. Principles on technology transfer along with supportive multilateral mechanisms were part of previous efforts in UNCTAD to develop a Code of Conduct on Technology Transfer, which should be revived and discussed in the perspective of a fairer, more accessible and environmentally sustainable recovery.

END WTO E-COMMERCE MORATORIUM

We agree with the Italian G20 Presidency that the G20 “should examine how to support the expansion of trade in services by promoting the regulation of e-commerce”, but we do not believe that “to design policies which reduce the costs of trade” should be considered a priority. Only 35 % of the population in developing countries and 19% in

¹¹https://issuu.com/greenpeace_eastasia/docs/is-the-wto-the-only-way

LDCs have Internet access as compared to 87% in the developed world.¹² As a result, many countries were not even able to provide basic information on combating COVID-19 where it was most needed. Given the existing digital divide, which is also found between rich and poor areas and inhabitants within developed countries themselves, it is important that G20 promotes that WTO members ensure that global e-commerce delivers inclusive development.

The growing digital monopolies in the hands of few digital platforms¹³, which pay little taxes to the governments of countries where they operate¹⁴, make it urgent to agree to tax these platforms and ensure that their products sold via e-commerce also face customs duties to level the playing field with the exporters of physical products. The WTO e-commerce moratorium which has continued since 1998 provides a special and differential treatment for the big digital platforms which do not face customs duties for their exports.¹⁵ The removal of WTO e-commerce moratorium will ensure that the exporters of physical products from developing countries are not outcompeted by the exporters of electronic transmissions which are mainly from developed countries.¹⁶

INCREASING THE PRESENCE OF CIVIL, GREEN AND SOLIDARITY ENTERPRISES TO RE-LOCALIZE ECONOMIES

Italy, which hosts and chairs the G20 this year, is a country that has a great and ancient tradition of MSMEs with great transformative potential of technological, social and environmental innovation. In this context, the experiences of the civil economy, the cooperative and social economy, the green and circular economy, the solidarity and transformative economy, the fair trade, are not just “good practices”. They support the national economic and productive system with a constant, multidimensional growth. They have guided many processes of urban and territorial transformation and regeneration, of ecological conversion, generating training and innovation, good employment with great protagonism of women and young people, and opportunity of job inclusion for disadvantaged and marginalized social groups.

Many of them arise from, or benefit from, a constant exchange with civil society organizations, environmental associations, trade unions, and make use of their networks and cooperation projects to promote sustainable development and trade partnerships around the world. It is essential to support their role in contributing to the diversification

and resilience of the internal and regional market, employment, and ecological and social regeneration of productive fabrics.

This fabric of virtuous local and sustainable economy could offer the best infrastructure for a progressive differentiation and relocation of strategic productions, making regions and territories less exposed to uncertainties linked to global crises. Their principles and concrete experience for a fair, green, inclusive and ethical trade can offer an excellent stepping-stone for a new generation of MSMEs guidelines which would need to be developed. We therefore call on the G20 to actively engage in such a process the best experiences of civil, cooperative, green, social and solidarity economy, in dialogue with civil society and workers’ representatives.

¹² <https://www.itu.int/en/ITU-D/Statistics/Pages/facts/default.aspx>

¹³ <https://store.globaldata.com/report/gdtmt-tr-s297-antitrust-in-tech-media-and-telecom-tmt-industry-thematic-research/>

¹⁴ <https://fortune.com/2019/12/06/big-tech-taxes-google-facebook-amazon-apple-netflix-microsoft/>

¹⁵ <https://sdg.iisd.org/news/wto-members-highlight-benefits-and-drawbacks-of-e-commerce-moratorium/>

¹⁶ Kozul-Wright R and Banga R (2020). Moratorium on Electronic Transmissions: Fiscal Implications and Way Forward, UNCTAD Research Paper (47). <https://unctad.org/news/should-digitally-delivered-products-be-exempted-customs-duties>

Civil 20 (C20) is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20.

It provides a platform of Civil Society Organizations around the world to bring forth the political dialogue with the G20. The Civil 20 process involves more than 500 organizations and networks in 100 countries - far beyond the G20 countries - and it is structured around the C20 Guiding Principles.

The C20 is organized in thematic Working Groups with two co-facilitators, one from the host country and one from the international civil society. The Policy Pack is the result of a common effort and represents a coral voice from the Civil Society.

C20 Working Groups



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2. GLOBAL HEALTH

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3. CLIMATE, BIODIVERSITY AND ECOLOGICAL TRANSITION

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4. GLOBAL CITIZENSHIP AND EDUCATION

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5. ANTI-CORRUPTION

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C20 is made by the Steering Committee (Working Groups coordinators, the Troika members and the Italian Presidency) and the International Advisory Committee.

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