

Y20 China 2016 Communiqué
Beijing and Shanghai, China – 29 July 2016

We, the 102 delegates of the Youth 20 (Y20), gathered together in Beijing and Shanghai on 24-29 July 2016 to discuss and debate the major difficulties and opportunities the world faces today. We profoundly believe that the G20's success is contingent upon the voice of youth being heard.

In addition, we welcome the presence of our permanent guest to the Y20, Spain, as well as our invited guests from Egypt, Kazakhstan, Laos, the OECD and Singapore, who have provided valuable input into the drafting of the final communiqué

We thank China for its G20 Presidency and for its support for engaging youth in the G20 decision-making process and the All China Youth Federation (ACYF) for hosting a successful Y20 Summit. We are extremely eager for Germany – the next G20 Presidency – to host the upcoming Y20 Summit in 2017.

With consensus support from the delegates, we propose the following to the G20.

I. Poverty Elimination and Joint Development

- 1. There is an urgent need to understand the multidimensionality of poverty. We recommend:**
 - a. Tackling the data gap to monitor the efficacy of public policies, incorporating the lived experiences of the poor and vulnerable;
 - b. Launching an international platform to promote knowledge sharing. This data must be publicly accessible;
 - c. Calling for more participation from poor and vulnerable groups in future Y20 summits and global economic discussions.
- 2. There is a need to promote a universally accessible and holistic education, taking into account the demands of an ever-changing job market. We recommend:**
 - a. Providing standardized high quality, basic education resources to students and training for teachers, including using digital platforms and leveraging data analytics;
 - b. Regulating the creation of decent, sustainable jobs aligned with international labor standards, ensuring that these jobs are accessible to all youth, free of discrimination— regardless of their gender, income level or socioeconomic status;
 - c. Ensuring access to free quality education, using a holistic and gender-based approach to both primary and secondary school. This education should focus on critical thinking skills, vocational training and both financial and technological literacy.
- 3. The most vulnerable nations continue to move forward in poverty reduction efforts, however large disparities remain in access to basic needs. We recommend:**
 - a. Increasing investment and building sustainable infrastructure in education, housing, transport, nutrition, health care and mental health services for all people, including refugees and stateless people;
 - b. Economically empowering women and disadvantaged groups through increasing representation in the labor market and strengthening social services for these populations;
 - c. Enforcing policies aimed at ensuring land rights for the poor in both rural and urban areas and facilitating the involvement of local communities in food production;
 - d. Making essential medicines accessible for all by promoting a global pay-for-performance scheme (e.g. the Health Impact Fund).

- 4. It is critical to effectively mobilize resources to eradicate extreme poverty by 2030. We recommend:**
 - a. Increasing South-South technical cooperation and knowledge sharing as a complement to North-South and triangular cooperation, as well as official development assistance (ODA) to least developed countries;
 - b. Encouraging the establishment of public-private partnerships to implement effective and targeted capacity building efforts. Private sector participation and investment needs to be matched with social responsibility.
- 5. The ICT sector is integral to accelerate joint development. We recommend:**
 - a. Providing inclusive Internet access to worldwide information through improved fixed and mobile communications infrastructure;
 - b. Expanding e-commerce services and mobile payment systems with the aim of rendering marketplaces available to small and individual businesses;
 - c. Promoting ICT-facilitated civil monitoring of assistance and development programs to increase transparency and accountability, while combatting corruption.

II. Entrepreneurship and Creative Thinking

- 1. Our education systems and the culture between the public and private sector hinder the growth of entrepreneurship and creative thinking. We recommend:**
 - a. Introducing practical programs that foster entrepreneurial, creative and critical thinking from primary school onwards by rewarding experimentation and eliminating the stigma of failure;
 - b. Reforming procurement processes to favor young entrepreneurs, establish intrapreneurship funds or initiatives targeted at young people within governments and encourage these in businesses.
- 2. Entrepreneurs and creative thinkers lack the soft and hard infrastructure necessary to turn their ideas into reality. We recommend:**
 - a. Establishing a public-level single point of access for entrepreneurs that provides information, national contacts and affordable assistance such as: licensing information, ideational and business support, grant opportunities, legal services and resources on starting a business nationally and internationally;
 - b. Encouraging and incentivizing local governments (especially in remote areas) to create “makerspaces” where community members have access to tools, technology and social connections that foster a multidisciplinary and entrepreneurial environment.
- 3. Limited access to finance inhibits young entrepreneurs from growing their businesses. We recommend:**
 - a. Growing and supporting public guarantee or collateral schemes, with emphasis on small and medium enterprises;
 - b. Implementing a documentation and screening mechanism to determine the creditworthiness of aspiring entrepreneurs;
 - c. Removing barriers for start-ups and entrepreneurs to raise equity from non-accredited investors (*e.g.* crowdfunding).
- 4. Restrictive regulatory environments hinder youth entrepreneurship and creativity. We recommend:**
 - a. Reducing domestic regulatory burdens to register and close a business through an all-digital process (*e.g.* online application form). Bankruptcy regimes should also be adapted to enable entrepreneurs to quickly recover from failures;

- b. Making the elimination and harmonization of digital trade barriers a World Trade Organization agenda priority;
- c. Developing a global mechanism to promote the enforcement and expedition of assignments of intellectual property rights.

III. Social Justice and Equal Opportunities

1. Education is a basic means to reduce inequality and guarantee equal opportunities. We recommend:

- a. Creating equitable funding schemes that prioritize children and cover up to tertiary education;
- b. Integrating curricula with topics of inclusiveness, diversity, respect and critical thinking, utilizing theoretical and experience-based methods, student exchanges and intercultural dialogues;
- c. Creating opportunities and access for vulnerable and underrepresented groups to higher education and vocational training such as quotas, scholarships and active recruitment;
- d. Developing minimum standards of education and ensuring the quality of teachers across all educational systems, through international collaboration of educational ministers;
- e. Fostering an environment conducive to learning through proper infrastructure, ICT and resources;
- f. Supporting the inclusion of migrants and refugees into the labor market through the effective recognition of possessed skills, access to free language courses and the development of industry-specific skills. Implement education reforms to better match initial and vocational education within market needs.

2. Discrimination is a factor that undermines equal socioeconomic opportunities. We recommend:

- a. Recognising and addressing issues that reduce participation of vulnerable groups in national economies such as discrimination in the workplace. This includes but is not limited to: women, people with disabilities, migrants, refugees, indigenous peoples and ethnic and religious minorities;
- b. Supporting social entrepreneurship for the benefit of disadvantaged groups through provisions such as fiscal measures, technology, infrastructure and foreign entrepreneurial ventures;
- c. Enforcing transparency for wages and blind application processes in public and private sectors to incentivize equal pay and opportunities for equal work.

3. Equal provision of public services is paramount to guarantee social justice. We recommend:

- a. Utilising demographic data to prioritize provision of safe health services to increase universal access. This includes: access to clean water, social housing options for vulnerable people and those of a lower socioeconomic level, collaboration between public and private health providers, promotion of health research, sanitation technology and organ donation;
- b. Facilitating the creation of IT services and platforms by the public and private sectors for disadvantaged and vulnerable groups;
- c. Supporting comprehensive access to ICT aimed at fostering academic research and knowledge sharing within and between countries;
- d. Providing access to legal aid for groups of a lower socioeconomic level by utilizing strategies such as qualified law students or pro-bono lawyers who can give basic legal aid to those who need it;
- e. Ensuring youth participation in decision-making processes for all affected groups through UNEP community protocols and public hearings. It is important to take intergenerational justice into account;
- f. Targeting underage refugees specifically by offering comprehensive counselling services.

4. We acknowledge that gender equality and elimination of gender-based violence is key for fostering a more just society. We recommend:

- a. Enforcing equal pay between genders and creating measures, such as quotas and mentorship, that ensure access to high-level positions for women in public and private sectors to achieve parity;
- b. Providing a comprehensive paid maternity and paternity leave which promotes re-entry to the workforce, affordable childcare and eliminates discrimination;
- c. Starting educational gender programs and career services through gender-neutral education;
- d. Ensuring that females receive sexual and reproductive healthcare services, which include family planning and sexual education, and receive reduced taxation on menstrual products;
- e. Supporting civil societies in increasing numbers of shelters, helplines, psychological and medical care for survivors of gender-based violence, conflict, post-conflict and disasters.

IV. Green Life and Sustainability

- 1. We propose G20 leaders to empower youth to achieve the 2030 SDGs in order to fulfill our commitments towards future generations.**
- 2. We urge respective signatories to ratify and implement the Paris Agreement and the Sendai Framework, and countries to be more ambitious in setting future targets.**
- 3. Increasing the awareness and participation of sustainable lifestyles is necessary to combat climate change. We strongly recommend:**
 - a. Incorporating a curriculum on sustainable development into all levels of formal education, such as sustainable and responsible consumerism, as well as capacity building in sustainable agricultural science research and practices;
 - b. Holding international youth networking events such as a Youth Energy Efficiency Festival, empowering sustainable entrepreneurship.
- 4. Since youth are the most vulnerable to natural disasters, many of which are exacerbated by climate change, G20 countries should be better prepared for them. We recommend:**
 - a. Investing in innovation and technology development and solution-driven research in Disaster Risk Reduction;
 - b. Preparing local response teams to involve locals as stakeholders in addressing disasters;
 - c. Adopting the Build Back Better (BBB) principle during the post-disaster recovery, rehabilitation and reconstruction phases.
- 5. Support local stakeholders' incentives to make cities cleaner and more sustainable through infrastructure development.**
- 6. The exploitation of nature and destruction of natural habitats have reached dangerous levels. We encourage:**
 - a. Ensuring the preservation and restoration of land and water ecosystems, paying attention to market mechanisms amongst other measures;
 - b. Supporting developing countries in protecting regional wildlife and preventing deforestation.
- 7. Establish a working group on sustainable multilateral cooperation, aiming at:**
 - a. Creating a bridge between public research and the private sector, enabling innovation and the exchange of environmentally sound technologies, through transparent environmental performance data sharing;
 - b. Encouraging programs to promote inclusive business, sustainable supply chain mechanisms and transition programs for environmentally displaced workers and refugees.
- 8. Sustainable development requires innovative financial architecture mechanisms to support the transition towards a low-emission economy. We call for:**
 - a. Evaluating the inclusion of deeper environmental chapters within trade agreements, considering different national contexts and capacities;

- b. Allocating special funds for sustainable development projects through Financial Development Institutions, particularly for young entrepreneurs in developing countries.

V. Partnership and Global Governance

- 1. In order to strengthen the engagement of youth focused stakeholder groups with new and existing economic institutions and to ensure investment is directed towards fostering cross regional youth employment and business opportunities, we recommend promoting public private partnerships (PPPs) through:**
 - a. Policy capacity building and best practice sharing;
 - b. Public support for risk allocation;
 - c. A lean and flexible legal framework;
 - d. Maintaining transparency and neutrality.
- 2. There is a need to enhance the resilience of the global financial architecture. We recommend:**
 - a. Harmonizing financial regulation and extending it to shadow banking;
 - b. Fostering the exchange of information on tax issues.
- 3. It is necessary to strengthen the G20 as a long-term mechanism for addressing global challenges. Therefore, we recommend:**
 - a. Establishing a task force responsible for selecting key G20 strategic development projects, focused on infrastructure and innovation;
 - b. Continuing cooperation to ensure harmonization of legislation on key issues of mutual trade and investment, as well as the exchange of technologies for multilateral development on a non-discriminatory basis;
 - c. Aligning the G20 development agenda with the SDGs.
- 4. It is critical to develop Internet infrastructure and governance, new technologies and big data. We recommend:**
 - a. Promoting open and equitable access to the Internet and expansion through investment in ICT infrastructure focusing on innovative and emerging technologies;
 - b. Encouraging the responsible use of big data and open sources in creating inclusive social policy;
 - c. Fostering a new social compact that respects the principles of personal privacy.
- 5. Ensuring social actors' participation in global governance is essential. We recommend:**
 - a. Empowering members of civil society and local actors by embracing the admission of *amicus* briefs before international adjudicative bodies in international treaties;
 - b. Establishing a state-led working group on paradiplomacy to increase cooperation between subnational actors.
- 6. There is a demand for shaping the future of the Y20. Therefore, we recommend:**
 - a. Introducing the position of the Y20 "Sherpas" with a Sherpa-like role among the selected national delegations to coordinate activities between annual Y20 Summits, to promote youth cooperation and Y20 decisions at all levels;
 - b. Fostering the participation of the Y20 "Sherpas" in all the relevant G20 groups;
 - c. Promoting the access of Y20 to all youth by encouraging institutionalized funding by G20 participating countries for Y20 delegates.
- 7. Ensuring the principles of good governance in all the aforementioned is important. We recommend:**
 - a. Building and working upon inclusive, transparent, accountable, effective and efficient mechanisms for the creation, application and adjudication of rules under Article 2 of the Charter of the United Nations.