G20 GERMANY 2017

YOUTH 20 DIALOGUE

Position Paper

developed by the Participants of the Y20 Summit 2017

Berlin, June 7, 2017

Preamble

We, the Y20 Summit 2017 delegation, met in Berlin, Germany on 2-8th June 2017.

We were drawn from nations and organisations across the globe including the G20 members: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America and the European Union; guest countries The Netherlands, Norway, Singapore, Spain; and representatives from the African Union, Asia-Pacific Economic Cooperation (APEC), International Labour Organisation (ILO), New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) Agency, Organisation for Economic Co-Operation and Development (OECD), World Trade Organisation (WTO), United Nations Major Group for Children and Youth (UN MGCY), and United Nations Inter-Agency Network on Youth Development's Working Group on Youth & Gender Equality.

We were invited by the German G20 Presidency to discuss important challenges that young people face today and to provide our input and recommendations from a youth perspective for the upcoming G20 Summit. We welcome this opportunity to contribute to the G20 debate.

Therefore, our approach to the Y20 Summit reflected not only different nationalities, but also diverse professional, academic and cultural backgrounds. We recognise the diversity of youth everywhere and the need to ensure that their views are not only heard, but also incorporated into the political process.

Our discussions have focused on 11 out of the 15 G20 agenda topics. However, we hold the view that all G20 agenda topics are equally important in promoting growth and should be addressed. Our suggested actions and policy recommendations for the G20 are outlined in this position paper.

We also note in this document the growing mistrust in political institutions from many young people around the world. In light of this realisation, we must highlight the importance of inclusive and transparent global governance; we encourage the G20 to uphold the highest standards in this regard. We also encourage the G20 to develop and adopt creative solutions, some of which are suggested in this document, to address our shared challenges.

Youth participation is a human right and the G20 should take leadership in ensuring that young people have access to the right to participate. The G20 must promote the active engagement of youth, youth councils, and organisations while making decisions through open and participative structures. We encourage the G20 to strengthen a multi-stakeholder approach in its deliberations.

We therefore highly appreciate the efforts of the German G20 Presidency to organise and finance this summit allowing young people to meaningfully participate in the G20 process. Furthermore, we encourage the 2018 Argentine G20 Presidency to enhance this youth dialogue during their presidency to maintain structured collaboration with the G20 process.

Young people need the chance to live, prosper, and succeed. Through our continued efforts, and with the support of the G20, we can ensure that together we can build a better future for our generation and all generations to come.

Y20 youth, in particular, are facing common and deep-rooted challenges: lack of economic opportunities for youth, and lack of youth involvement in the global economy. In 2017, global youth unemployment rates is expected to reach 13.1 per cent[1]. What is even more alarming is the fact that 25 per cent of youth in middle-income nations and 15 per cent in high income nations are NEETs: not in education, employment or training[2].

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[1] ILO, 2017.
[2] OECD, 2017.

The State of the Global Economy

Challenges and opportunities from a youth perspective

The global economy is at a crossroads. As G20 leaders gather to map out strategies for global economic resilience, it is important to take into account global economic challenges faced by youth. Youth represent roughly a quarter of the world's population, and 85 per cent live in developing countries. Although the challenges we face vary from country to country, we all are living in the shadow of a global economic crisis. The lack of economic opportunities for youth, and the lack of youth involvement in the global economy contribute to the greatest security and development challenges of today.

In 2017, the global youth unemployment rate is expected to reach 13.1 per cent. What is even more alarming is the fact that nearly a quarter of the world's young people are NEETs: not in education, employment or training. The economic loss from disengaged youth underemployment, inequality, or marginalisation is significant. Failure to provide young people with opportunities not only lowers economic growth today, but also threatens the future of the global economy.

While education is the key to more productive and prosperous economies, inclusive quality education for youth remains a challenge. Housing has grown more costly, too, especially in the globally connected megacities where the best jobs are located.

What governments and policymakers decide in the G20 Summit will have profound consequences on young generations around the world. It is therefore essential to develop strategies to harness the incredible power of youth's dynamism to generate global and sustainable economic growth.

The Y20 youth call on members of the G20 to:

1. **Enhance global economic policy:**
    - Ensure global economic policies and partnerships are well-planned, transparent and organised to achieve strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth;
    - Use monetary and fiscal policies in tandem in order to support economic activity and ensure price stability;
    - Utilise fiscal policy including fair taxation and responsible public expenditure including high quality investment;
    - Reaffirm global exchange rate commitments to avoid the intensity and recurrences of devaluations;

2. **Ensure economic stability:**
   - Ensure that member-states are vigilant about the rise of economic crises and public debts around the world;
   - Reiterate the need for stronger and stricter regulations across different sectors that are prone to economic adversity;
   - Advocate the importance of economic diversification for all countries, including developing and resource-dependent countries.

3. **Support the sharing economy:**
   - Invite key stakeholders to collect data on consumption and waste patterns in order to provide the solid foundation for enterprises to design effective sharing models;
   - Clarify policies directly addressing specific aspects of the shared economy including taxation, insurance, licensing, social rights and data protection;
   - Promote new forms of peer-to-peer lending and fundraising platforms to support young entrepreneurs.

4. **Foster global micro, small and medium enterprise (MSME) growth:**
   - Create an entrepreneurial ecosystem which promotes a thriving entrepreneurial culture to drive innovation and employment;
   - Promote a set of coordinated policy tools and resources to empower youth in MSMEs such as micro-financing, information services, public advisory services and risk evaluation services;
   - Establish and improve a sustainable technology transfer database tailored for MSMEs globally.

5. **Sustain economic equality:**
   - Establish a fair wealth redistribution system to improve opportunities of young people;
   - Enhance the basic infrastructures in developing countries through long-term partnership projects and alternative forms of aid.

Youth are at the forefront of change for a society. Their innovative ideas and energy can be a force for social and economic change. Youth understand the main issues that are plaguing themselves the best. A framework for the inclusion of youth in policy making needs to be created. Policy makers also need to utilise global platforms and youth organisations to promote the inclusion of youth leaders in government. For youth to become catalysts for change and economic growth, governments and policymakers need to become catalysts for youth inclusion in policy making.

Global Trade

Rethinking 21st Century Global Trade

Given the rising tendency of protectionism in some G20 economies and the age of digitalisation, the Y20 Summit acknowledges the diverse 21st century challenges that are putting immense stress on the current global trade environment. Due to the uneven impacts of trade, a lack of proper resource redistribution and trade literacy, there has been increasing skepticism toward free trade. As such, there is an urgent call to examine the evidence to rethink global trade towards a more inclusive and responsive 21st century.

1. Inclusive Trade

We reiterate that the basis for inclusive trade is a rules-based trading system. Such a system is crucial for predictions, forward planning, and cooperation. G20 Members, as WTO Members, should refrain from unilateralism and act within the framework of the WTO, which ensures an equal, level playing field for all countries. Nevertheless, the trading system could also work better for all by considering the ecological and social consequences of trade. Furthermore, it is essential to empower micro, small, and medium enterprises to integrate youth and women in global trade. To achieve this, we recommend that the G20 Members:

- **Ensure the highest respect of international standards by all traders, throughout global value chains, by requiring public disclosure of traders' labor and environmental indicators** on public websites, encouraging compliance with international standards[3] and enhancing accountability;

- **Enhance benefits of trade for all, particularly by:**

  - Working further with international organisations to agree on best practices for trade adjustment programs, to provide safety nets for those left out from globalisation;
  - Considering opening discussions to develop an agreement on anti-corruption in the WTO context, to ensure integrity throughout global value chains; and
  - Empowering communities in international trade, especially youth and women, through funding for infrastructure; human capacity building through education; and vocational trainings.

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[3] In line with OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises and taking into account the ILO Worst Forms of Child Labour Convention, the ILO Forced Labour Convention and its additional Protocol, as well as the Tripartite Declaration of Principles concerning Multinational Enterprises and Social Policy and the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change.

Commit to develop labour market reforms for increased flexibility for workers to cross borders and the inclusion of youth, women and older workers.

- **Reduce unnecessary trade costs that are especially burdensome for MSMEs**, particularly by:

  - Offering easy access to information about regulations in place through a centralised online platform[4];
  - Co-operating internationally in regulatory processes when facing common policy challenges;
  - Clarifying the legislation applicable to e-commerce, particularly on cross-border market places; and
  - Developing focused training programmes for MSMEs on the Trade Facilitation Agreement to reduce red tape at the border and simplify access to exports.

2. Improving Trade Literacy

We are facing a conundrum: how do we educate people on the benefits and challenges of international trade when the discussions require specialised, technical knowledge? The Y20 Summit affirms the importance of youths holding informed opinion about trade to contribute to debates. We therefore recommend that G20 Members enhance trade literacy through:

- **Simplify information:** Disseminating existing studies about trade regulation developed by international organisations through a more citizen-oriented approach, including infographics, videos and different presentations in local languages; and

- **Conduct inclusive outreach:** Public campaigns in social media and other media outlets to reach out to audiences other than specialised traders and businessmen. Additionally, trade can be included as a topic in school curricula so students can be exposed to a basic functioning of international trade from an early age. Training programs for businesses, especially MSMEs, can be supported to enhance knowledge on integrating into global value chains.

3. Transparency in Trade Negotiation

There is widespread demand for more transparency in trade negotiations. We recommend that G20 Members commit to applying domestic good regulatory practices as recommended by the OECD[5] throughout all phases of the negotiation of trade agreements, including:

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[4] This could enhance the existing platform for notifications of draft measures developed by WTO, ITC and UNODC: http://www.epingalert.org

[5] OECD Recommendation on Regulatory Policy and Governance: http://www.oecd.org/governance/regulatory-

- **Independent regulatory impact assessments** about the content and scope of trade agreements prior to the launch of the negotiations;

- **Inclusiveness of trade negotiations** via regular stakeholder consultations; and

- **Transparency of trade negotiations:** Overall, ensure easy access to on-going trade negotiations by citizens and stakeholders worldwide, through an open online platform such as the WTO Regional Trade Agreement Information System.

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Employment

The Future of Work

Factors such as technology, digitalisation, and globalisation are reshaping the world of work. While we see these developments as opportunities, they also bring challenges for young people. This is in the form of skills mismatches, unstable employment opportunities, and the risk of eroding workers' voices in social dialogue. We acknowledge that labour markets are rapidly changing and we believe that the current forms of social dialogue and social protection must be adapted.

Over 70 million young people between the ages of 15 and 24 are unemployed, with a global youth unemployment rate approximately three times higher than adults - with some countries reaching up to 50 per cent. As highlighted by the Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth, job quality remains a persistent challenge, with many young workers living in poverty, underemployed, or in informal employment.

We underline the role of youth organisations in the creation and implementation of employability programs targeting youth, as they are best placed to reach the most vulnerable and excluded youth. We believe that providing support for and promoting youth organisations is an imperative.

New skills for the future of work

The changing labour market demands different skill sets. The demand for social and creative skills is increasing, as these skills are difficult to replace with new technology. Globalisation and digitalisation enable a wide range of learning paths, including non-formal education and informal learning. We also recognise the importance of migrant workers for economic growth. Therefore, we the Y20 urge for:

- Implementation of national skills recognition systems to assess skills acquired outside of formal education and training systems, including those gained from participation in youth organisations and volunteering;
- Interconnected national and international qualification frameworks that recognise qualifications across borders;
- The promotion of lifelong learning to guide people towards quality employment and long-term career prospects;
- A holistic approach to education, focusing on the development of core skills;
- Tailored career guidance for young people provided as part of secondary and tertiary education and through public employment services and agencies; and
- The respect of labour rights for migrant workers.

Quality workplace learning

We recognise the work of the G20 Labour and Employment Group, specifically the Initiative to Promote Quality Apprenticeships. We call for the development, harmonisation and implementation of quality and adequate apprenticeship programs. We also believe that quality vocational education and training (VET), internships and apprenticeships play a key role in the transition from education to employment. Unfortunately, social stigma regarding VET and apprenticeships leads to a low demand for these learning paths. Therefore, we the Y20 urge for:

- Active public-private cooperation and the inclusion of employer, employee, and student organisations in curriculum building for VET programmes;
- Compliance with the commitments taken under the Chinese G20 Presidency to increase the quality, quantity, attractiveness, and diversity of apprenticeships;
- Updating and adapting the G20 training strategy to consider the future of work;
- The abolition of unpaid internships and promotion of quality internships based on the European Quality Charter on Internships and Apprenticeships.

Future of the social dialogue and new forms of work

Many workers are not being heard in social dialogue. New forms of work such as working remotely, crowd-work, and platform work brought about by the digital revolution pose a challenge to the future of social dialogue. Traditionally, trade unions only represent workers on standard contracts and in traditional industries. While currently representing a minority of total employment, the new forms of work are expected to grow exponentially in the near future[6]. We the Y20 urge for:

- Increased efforts to include workers with non-standard contracts, self-employed, and representatives of apprentices in social dialogue;
- The promotion of new forms of social dialogue that ensure broader workers' representation.

Non-standard forms of work and social protection

We acknowledge the flexibility that non-standard forms of work provide and are aware that the contributions of workers in this type of work are often not reflected in social systems. Therefore, these workers have been unable to obtain social benefits such as pensions, unemployment, or maternity and paternity benefits. We the Y20 urge for:

- Non-discriminatory employment and social policies such as tax incentives for businesses to employ young people instead of lower minimum wages for young people;
- All young workers being provided social protections, regardless of the type of the contract.

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[6] International Labour Organization, 2016.

Digitalisation

Challenges and Recommendations for a Digital Future

We believe that digitalisation is of utmost importance to youth for two reasons:
- A truly global, internationally governed, and reliable Internet enables sustainable and inclusive economic growth for our generation; and
- We are the most tech-savvy generation yet and have the greatest potential to adopt groundbreaking technologies.

We firmly believe in the future of a globally-connected, sustainable society and thus urge G20 members to cooperate and ensure the stable functioning of Internet infrastructure and open access to digital connectivity. **The Y20 summit affirms** the commitments made in Hangzhou to the Connect 2020 Agenda of providing digital access to the next 1.5 billion people by 2020, but much more needs to be done.

The three **biggest challenges** our generation is currently facing in the digital sphere are:
- **The digital gap**. Although digital access increased from 4 per cent to 40 per cent of the world population in the last 20 years, only about 12 per cent of people in emerging economies have a broadband data connection[7]. We need to intensify our efforts to bridge the gap that still exists due to various disparities between developed and developing countries;
- **The absence of an internationally recognised legal framework** on the Internet including. management and rules regulating the conduct of states and non-state actors (NSAs) in cyberspace; and
- **Obsolete skills.** According to a 2016 PWC report[8], 21-38 per cent of jobs, especially low-skilled ones[9], could be lost to automation by 2030 and can critically affect youth employment. Young people will need more relevant skills.

We therefore need better policies to ensure that youth can thrive in an increasingly digitalised world.

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[7] https://www.weforum.org/agenda/2015/09/how-can-we-achieve-universal-internet-access/
[8] https://www.pwc.co.uk/economic-services/ukeo/pwcukeo-section-4-automation-march-2017-v2.pdf
[9] http://www.measureofamerica.org/youth-disconnection-2015/

Our key recommendations are:

- **Ensure Universal Digital Access.**
  We need to ensure that all nations, especially developing ones, have access to digital infrastructure- the basis for further innovation. Governments and businesses should cooperate to narrow the digital divide by increasing connectivity, improving productivity, and fostering growth.

  We the Y20 urge the G20 members to establish Public-Private Partnerships (PPPs) to conduct necessary scientific research, build digital frameworks that provide equal access to the internet, and support the design of inexpensive technologies that suit the needs of the developing world. Proper governmental regulation of the sector is needed to prevent the formation of network monopolies;

- **Implement Digital Education And Literacy Programs**
  As technology plays a more pervasive part in our lives, **we need effective and relevant digital education that encompasses formal schooling and real-world experience.** Current and future generations stand to benefit greatly from investments in digital education and literacy, in particular for lifelong learning, and we call on the G20 nations to make this a key priority. We highlight the need to organise programs for the vulnerable and less digitally literate groups such as young women, rural, disabled and illiterate populations. Education on digital ethics, including the consequences of Internet use and anonymity, is crucial to prevent cyberattacks and cybercrime.

  We propose establishing PPPs with relevant companies to organise better work-study programmes that incorporate digital skills enabling youths to effectively utilise technologies in real-world settings;

- **Create An Internationally Recognised Legal Framework For Internet Governance**
  We consider that the management of the Internet should be an open, democratic and people-centered process based on universally recognised principles of international law. We believe there is an urgent need to create an appropriate framework under the auspices of the UN. States should have an equal stake in regulating the Internet and refrain from censorship or restriction. It is crucial to ensure a proper balance between protecting fundamental rights to privacy and national security. Rules and definitions are needed to harmonise the interaction and role of states and companies in the ICT sector.

  We should work towards the implementation of the principals of net neutrality on a global scale, preventing the stifling of innovation by unfair treatment of data. An independent and adequately empowered body, such as the ITU, must be in charge of implementing and monitoring these goals;

- **Strengthen Cyber Security**
  Cyber security increases in importance with the rise of individuals and devices connected to the Internet. A common understanding of Internet security is indispensable for further cooperation between governments and NSAs aimed at protecting cyberspace.

  States should exchange relevant expertise to develop the Internet, improve its security, and assist each other in conducting assessments and R&D to benefit developing countries. We urge the G20 members to establish a mechanism through which governments and corporations can share information regarding cyber security, including best practices, vulnerabilities and, solutions.

  Security standards for critical infrastructure and the Internet of things should be developed and enforced to prevent attacks and avoid creating botnets of unprecedented scale via the IoT. Emerging technologies such as blockchains should be employed in protecting citizens' data from cyber risks; and

- **Promote E-Governance Technologies**
  We understand e-governance as integration of ICT for the sake of promoting two-way government-citizen communication, addressing the needs of people, and delivering effective services. It can significantly improve civic participation of young people and increase transparency of governmental structures. We strongly encourage the development of networks connecting public servants and promoting the free flow of information between agencies - increasing efficiency, accountability, and transparency.

Climate First

Young Ideas for a Sustainable Future

Climate change is real. There is overwhelming scientific evidence to support the existence of anthropogenic climate change and its negative consequences on our planet. We have a great opportunity to take action now. In this section, we describe the most pressing problems from young people's perspective along with potential solutions. Although climate change poses a significant challenge to the futures of young people, we are capable, creative, and ready to address these challenges head on.

International Climate Change Agreements, such as the Paris Agreement, should be honoured and greater incentives for joining and remaining signatories must be adopted. We the Y20 urge G20 members to:

- **Increase the number of relevant stakeholders** by involving sub-state actors, such as city governments, regional governments, youth organizations and religious institutions, in climate negotiations. As a result, any attenuation of national governmental support will not indicate the complete withdrawal of the nation-state. A more integrated system of implementation will strengthen the long-term feasibility of such agreements;
- **Accountability**: Similar to the monitoring of signatory nations of the UN Convention on the Rights of the Child, there should be an enhanced and active monitorisation by the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change of international climate change agreements; and
- **Avoiding a 'Domino Effect':** Climate agreements function best when all parties operate on a level playing field. The international community must be tough on nations who withdraw from climate agreements and should act in a punitive manner to incentivise other nations to remain in the agreement.

Empowering sustainable solutions to environmental problems will only be possible by providing technical and legislative resources while increasing investment in research and development as well as in technology transfer. We the Y20 urge G20 members to:

- **Waste management:** Develop a comprehensive approach to waste management through the Integrated Solid Waste Management (ISWM) model. This is through consciously designing and manufacturing products to make the separation, transport, and processing of waste more efficient, leading to a circular economy;
- **Agriculture**: Provide support to local food producers to promote small scale cultivation; sustainable farming practices, such as crop rotation; and irrigation technologies, in addition to their implementation. Reduce large-scale livestock production and concentrate on food production for direct human consumption for more efficient use of land while simultaneously reducing animal emissions;

- **Energy**: Develop novel ways to generate, store, and utilise sources of renewable energy such as bio-waste, wind, and solar. Additionally, find diverse ways to integrate these developments into products and services whilst simultaneously assisting the development of these technologies in developing economies; and

- **Market-based solutions**: Empower and employ market-based solutions to environmental problems when appropriate. The right to pollute has a cost. The fight against climate change and the free market economy can be compatible with the development of efficient market based solutions to climate change such as trading systems, especially carbon emission trading as well as punitive taxes and subsidies removal.[10]

Raising awareness is required to promote the responsible consumption of our limited natural resources. The G20 Summit is an opportunity to discuss important initiatives to enhance the wellbeing of the global commons which can be then followed by the rest of the world. We the Y20 urge G20 members to:

- **Education**: Create and support formal and informal education programs that develop environmental awareness from a young and impressionable age, by incorporating information regarding climate change and the environment into curricula. Information regarding climate and energy should be made available through the internet and social media (inspiration can be gained by examining the Climate Literacy and Energy Awareness Network), in addition to the creation of green spaces at educational institutions;

- **Participation**: Youth engagement and awareness about climate change and its consequences can be increased by organising various competitions and activities nationally and internationally. Future generations must be passionate about planet earth in order to protect it; and

- **Awareness campaigns:** Raise awareness on actions that can be taken to contribute to the fight against climate change, such as the creation of guides distributed through social media and national campaigns to make various societal sectors part of the change.

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[10] OECD (2017), *Investing in Climate, Investing in Growth*, OECD Publishing, Paris. DOI: http://dx.doi.org/10.1787/9789264273528-en

The 2030 Agenda

A Youth Perspective

While welcoming the reaffirmation of your commitments to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in the 2016 Hangzhou Summit Communique[11], we firmly believe that this **new social contract** should become the leading agenda for all G20 members and within their cooperation. All goals should be equally respected and are interconnected. We emphasise the special role of organised and non-organised youth not only in the implementation, but also in the monitoring, reviewing, and evaluation processes of Agenda 2030. There should be a focus on raising awareness of the 2030 Agenda with all people globally. We share the understanding that the G20 represents a critically important forum to implement the SDGs, which have the imperative purpose of benefiting all countries and people.

Part I: Recommendations for the Effective Realisation of the 2030 Agenda

We urge the G20 members to:
- Vigorously pursue collaboration with civil society organisations and stakeholders at the local level to apply a crucial bottom-up approach to the implementation of the Agenda in all levels of government;
- Incorporate the Agenda's framework through formal and non-formal education systems such as including the SDGs in curricula for children, as well as through youth trainings, and civil society programming;
- Create and ensure effectiveness of national committees and bodies (for example an independent council for Sustainable Development) that ensures the holistic consideration of the Agenda in decision-making processes, highlighting specific SDG-related disparities and challenges on a national level. Meaningful youth membership in these bodies is crucial, e.g. as co-authors;
- Reaffirm that the core function of the UN High-Level Political Forum is to openly monitor and review progress, and share best practices and challenges;
- Strengthen existing mechanisms for youth participation, such as Major Groups and Other Stakeholders in the High Level Political Forum, including through increased funding;
- Include official UN youth delegates during the UN High-Level Political Forum. They should also collaborate with transparently-chosen youth representatives (for example from non-governmental, independent, self-organised National Youth Councils) to provide a youth lens in all discussions at the forum, while ensuring an impactful role;

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[11] C.f. Communique Hangzhou G20 Leaders' Summit 2016 Article 33.

- Ensure more transparent and effective financing systems in accordance with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development,[12] and immediately commit to contributing no less than 0.7 per cent of a country's total GDP to annual overseas development assistance, and encourage increasing the commitment to at least 1 per cent;
- Systematically integrate youth analysis and youth budgeting into country agendas, growth strategy, and policy frameworks. This must include improving youth-disaggregated data collection for evidence-based policymaking and progress monitoring;
- Create transparent SDG monitoring systems by establishing national indicator frameworks that clearly and publicly communicate a state's progress toward the Agenda 2030, for example through an online platform consisting of both national and global data sets on implementation;
- Facilitate parliamentary mechanisms (commissions or committees) on a national level, aimed at executing 'SDG checks' which verify that all new and existing policies and laws are in accordance with the framework of the Agenda;
- Formalise the role of the Development Working Group within the G20 drafting framework.

Part II: Recommendations on Specific Goals

Though not prioritising any one of the SDGs as most important, we would like the G20 to pay attention to the two following goals which we believe have not been addressed sufficiently to date:
- **Concerning SDG 17** which asks to "revitalise the global partnership"[13], we recognise that in order to achieve the 2030 Agenda, there must be strengthened cooperation and partnership beyond the G20 states. This includes critical partnerships with least-developed countries in line with Agenda 2030 at the international and local levels and the private sector on a national level. We urge the Argentine Presidency to continue the progress made on the Compact with Africa over the course of the German Presidency;

- **Concerning SDG 16** which calls on all states to "build […] accountable institutions,"[14] we acknowledge the concerns raised by some young people regarding the G20 and urge that activities of the G20 be based upon truly open, transparent and inclusive processes, to elicit greater acceptance of the dialogue itself. For example this might be achieved by increasing the number of non-G20 observer states in the process, or by communicating the entire agenda and all items that have been discussed.

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[12] Communique Hangzhou G20 Leaders' Summit 2016 Article 33.

[13] Transforming our world: The 2030 Agenda for sustainable development

[14] ibid.

Empowering Women

Young Women's Right to Economic Empowerment and Participation in Leadership and Decision-Making Positions

Gender equality is a human right, but our world faces a persistent gap in access to opportunities and decision-making power for young women and girls. Globally, while gender gaps in education and health have narrowed considerably, women are still generally underrepresented in economic and political spheres of life. Advancing young women's and girl's human rights, economic empowerment, and political participation are critical for achieving gender equality, eradicating poverty, and promoting inclusive sustainable development. Reflecting the voices, expertise, rightful opinions and experiences of young people, and referring to the outcome document of the *61st Commission on Status of Women Youth Forum*[15], we present our recommendations on "Empowering Women" to the G20 heads of states.

Women are at risk of losing out on tomorrow's best job opportunities, whether in the public or private sectors, as an employee, or as an entrepreneur. This is especially so within the scientific, technological, engineering, and mathematics (STEM) fields. Recognising that education is key in women's empowerment, we recommend:

- Creating vocational educational training in order to easily provide young women the professional skills necessary to become economically independent;
- Calling on the G20 members to prioritise education (especially for girls & young women) by calling on the World Bank, regional development banks, and donors to establish an International Finance Facility for Education (IFFEd)[16] in order to annually mobilise $10 billion or more in new and additional resources by 2020 – and upwards of $20 billion by 2030 (an increase of $3.5 billion per year today);
- Establishing STEM scholarships and programs from high school until university and incentivising female entry-level programs focusing on the STEM field;
- Ensuring educational curricula for both girls and boys to include human rights & gender sensitive education, and essential skills for economic empowerment including leadership, problem-solving, financial literacy, self-esteem, digital literacy and entrepreneurial skills[17]; and
- Creating mentorship programs in order to support women in the early stages of their careers – especially in those fields women are underrepresented.

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[15] http://fesplanet.org/Youth%20CSW%20Forum%202017%20Declaration.pdf
[16] http://educationcommission.org/wp-content/uploads/2017/03/IFFEd-Overview-4-17.pdf
[17] CSW58 Agreed Conclusions, E/CN.6/2014/L.7, section A, para (u)

Female leadership in political and economic life is crucial to achieving gender equality, yet women are greatly underrepresented in both national parliamentary and managerial positions. We recommend:

- Establishing systems, for example, quotas, for leadership positions in public administrations and large private and public companies in order to create space for women's political and economic participation;
- Creating or enhancing the work of national bodies that monitor and report on the roles of women and men in companies at all levels of leadership and decision-making processes.

Recalling the commitment of G20 leaders, and reiterating W20 Germany's[18] call to reduce the gap in labour force participation between women and men by 25 per cent by 2025;[19] acknowledging that when paid and unpaid care work are taken together women work longer hours than men we recommend:

- Supporting young women and men to better reconcile work-family responsibilities through integrated policies that range from childcare facilities and childcare subsidies to parental leave schemes that enable and encourage men to increasingly contribute to care and family work;
- Promoting flexible work arrangements, while also ensuring adequate social protections and benefits, with the aim of boosting female employment; and
- Providing women access to, and control of, personal finances, bank accounts, and lending through legislative reform and public-private partnerships.

The wage gap between men and women persists across countries because women's work is undervalued and women tend to be overrepresented in low-paying sectors. For women of colour, immigrant women, and mothers, the gap is even wider. Alarmed by the persistently high gender pay gap, we recommend:

- Establishing and strengthening legislation mandating non-discriminatory hiring practices that ensure equal pay for equal work;
- Increasing the employment and net incomes of young women and men, especially young parents, through tax credits and subsidies; and
- Championing policies that aim to increase young women's representation in leadership roles, particularly within low-paying jobs that are often insufficiently covered by minimum wage provisions and collective bargaining agreements.

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[18] Women20 Germany 2017 Communiqué April 2017 http://www.w20-germany.org/fileadmin/user_upload/documents/W20_Communique_Final.pdf
[19] G20 Leaders' Communiqué Brisbane Summit 2014, http://www.bundesfinanzministerium.de/Content/DE/Downloads/G20-Dokumente/2014-Australien-Abschlusserklaerung.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=1

Violence against women and girls is a grave violation of human rights. Its impacts range from immediate to long-term and include physical, sexual, and mental consequences for women and girls – which sometimes lead to death. We recommend:

- Creating legislation to support women suffering from domestic abuse, human trafficking, and forced prostitution;
- Taking all necessary measures to provide protection from all forms of violence and harassment related to sexual orientation and gender identity[20];
- Providing health and justice systems to young women and girls impacted by gender-based and sexual violence, including children born as a result of rape;
- Ensuring universal access to a range of sexual and reproductive health services, including safe and effective contraceptives, maternal health care, safe and legal abortion and postabortion care, free from coercion, discrimination and violence[21];
- Enforcing severe punishments for violence against women while ensuring that women will not be unduly constrained and harassed by law enforcement agencies; and
- Engaging with young men and boys from an early age in order to teach them to act in solidarity against gender-based violence (GBV).

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[20] See Yogyakarta Principles Article 5A, http://www.glen.ie/attachments/The_Yogyakarta_Principles.pdf
[21] See Commission on the Status of Women 58 (2014), Agreed Conclusion, para 42(o)

Refugees and Asylum-Seekers

A Youth Perspective

The world faces the largest humanitarian crisis since the outbreak of World War II.[22] More than a dozen conflicts have broken out in the past years in different regions of the world, including Syria, Iraq, South Sudan and Ukraine forcing many people to flee their homes. According to the United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees (UNHCR), one in every 113 human beings worldwide is now either a refugee, internally displaced, or seeking asylum.[23] Globally, every second refugee is a child.[24]

We acknowledge the existence of the problems faced by migrants worldwide. However, the context of the following recommendations primarily concern refugees and asylum seekers. According to UNHCR, migrant issues are covered by national immigration laws and processes, whereas refugee and asylum seeker are covered by both national and international law.

Exposure to violence and war harms children's and young people's cultural, intellectual, physical, psychological and social development. Children and youth are not only affected by what happens to them, but also by what they are deprived of (for example, their right to education).

Preventive Measures

Conflicts and wars are major drivers of migration. In other cases the lack of future opportunities, the destruction of natural resources, as well as effects of climate change are decisive for the decision to migrate. We call on the G20 leaders and responsible organisations and institutions to:

- Strengthen and fully implement the UN Security Council Resolution 2250 on Youth, Peace and Security to maintain peace;
- Continue efforts towards more sustainable policies as highlighted in the Paris Agreement and in the Agenda 2030; and
- For improved coordination of national and international strategies aimed at economic and institutional cooperation between fragile states and the G20 based on at a fair and equitable exchange.

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[22] http://ec.europa.eu/echo/files/aid/countries/factsheets/syria_en.pdf
[23] http://www.unhcr.org/afr/news/latest/2016/6/5763b65a4/global-forced-displacement-hits-record-high.html
[24] http://fra.europa.eu/en/news/2015/migrant-situation-eu-takes-heavy-toll-children

International Standards and Human Rights

Current existing legal frameworks often fail to fully ensure human rights of refugees and asylum-seekers. We call on the G20 leaders and responsible institutions to:

- Define the status of climate refugees and design measures aimed at protecting them;
- Support civil society organizations and youth organisations in the monitoring human rights;
- Define G20 guidelines for fair and just asylum procedures: for example, through conducting interviews in an applicant's first language and keeping interviews to a reasonable length;
- Create legal channels for asylum-seekers to ensure a safe passage and the right to asylum, for example, at embassies or consulates;
- Develop a mechanism among the G20 states to share responsibility in allocating refugee population or provide appropriate levels of support.

The Role of Youth and Youth Organisations

Youth are important contributors to enhancing an inclusive society for all young refugees; empowering youth leads to a more active citizenry. We call on the G20 leaders and responsible institutions to:

- Recognise the work of youth organisations in the reception and inclusion of young refugees into society; mobilize sufficient resources while ensuring the recognition of skills obtained by young refugees and asylum-seekers; and
- Foster cooperation with youth organisations in order to incorporate human rights and intercultural dialogue into school curricula.

Inclusion and Non-Discrimination

Inclusion means equal opportunities, free from any form of discrimination, in the participation of key areas of social life for all people. Policies in this realm should follow a holistic and cross-cutting approach in order to support the long-term autonomy of young asylum-seekers and refugees. We call on the G20 leaders and responsible institutions to:

- Ensure the right to inclusive and quality education; and provide language education during the asylum process;
- Grant access to the labour market and quality jobs after maximum one year of pending asylum procedure and facilitate socio-economic inclusion through job training;
- Ensure that asylum-seekers and refugees have access to services for their well-being, including mental health, to support their recovery from past trauma.

Combatting Terrorism

The spread of terrorism has become a growing threat to the international community. Young people have fallen victim to increasing fear and insecurity. Considering the borderless nature of the problem, a successful response can only be effective through close collaboration at the local, national and global levels.

There are a multitude of complex challenges the international community face in the fight against terrorism. Among them are the lack of effectiveness in global citizenship education in school curriculums around the world, the lack of political cooperation, lack of information sharing among countries, and the dangers of isolation as a path towards radicalisation and ultimately, terrorism.

Global Citizenship Education (GCED) aims to empower learners to assume active roles to face and resolve global challenges and to become proactive contributors to a more peaceful, tolerant, inclusive and secure world. According to the UNESCO, while 86 per cent of countries have made global citizenship education mandatory in their national curricula, only 46 per cent of countries are measuring its effectiveness. Without measurement, governments miss the opportunity to improve curriculum and ensure its effectiveness.

Numerous terrorist groups have been operating across national borders, running training camps, acquiring financial resources, operating media outlets to disseminate their propaganda and glorify their vicious acts abroad. The lack of judicial cooperation and knowledge sharing between governments enables perpetrators of terror acts, mentors and supporters to escape justice, travel freely, and recruit people from around the world.

As delegates of the Y20 Summit, we urge governments to effectively engage and empower civil society to be a part of the solution in combatting the spread of radicalisation and terrorism. G20 governments need to be more efficient at communicating with civil society. We propose creating a digital platform that enables productive interaction between governments, local communities and individuals. This digital platform will bring communities together and empower them to take an active part in countering radicalisation and terrorism. The digital platform will be in the form of an app and websites that will include the following:

- **Government Information:** Awareness on terrorism, information of different forms of terrorism, notifications of terrorist threats in the area, safety measures people can take in the aftermath of attacks or while exposed to threat, ways to identify potential terrorist threats, ways to report potential radicalisation, and more;
- **Civic Engagement:** Provide opportunities to bring communities together (for example by providing information on local organisations that aim to promote unity in communities and for people to get involved in their communities);

- **Database:** Polls measuring the effectiveness of government response to terrorist threats, sentiments around a country's safety, level of tolerance in communities, and other data governments are interested in collecting from citizens;
- **Security Measures:** The use of strict identification and authentication methods to ensure the safety and authenticity of the information provided by the digital platform and the data collected from public users;
- **Incentives**: To increase usage and visibility of the digital platforms, we recommend governments provide incentives. We suggest incentives be in the form of public work recognition, advantages in applying for governmental programs and scholarships; and
- **Consistency:** The framework of the app should remain similar across countries and information should be localised and managed by respective states individually.

Ultimately, we believe this digital platform will enable governments to accomplish three main objectives: disseminate important information that can inform and empower people to be active participants in the fight against terrorism; provide governments with a scaled and effective method of collecting data that can be used to counter terrorism at the global level; and provide people with opportunities to build stronger communities that are inclusive, tolerant, and have a sense of global citizenship. The digital platform can only fulfil its mandate if all member countries cooperate fully.

Anti-Corruption

Tackling a Persistent Challenge

Combatting corruption is a persistent challenge worldwide. Corruption diverts resources that could be channeled into socio-economic development. Recent estimates show that the annual cost of bribery alone stands at around 2 per cent of global GDP.[25] Pervasive corruption contributes to rising inequality, polarisation, and illicit activities while also undermining the credibility of institutions. This can discourage the political participation of youth, creating a vicious cycle that erodes trust in governance mechanisms.

Therefore, we welcome the G20's ongoing discussion of this issue, as well as the inclusion of anti-corruption commitments under Goal 16 of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. These are important efforts that must be sustained, implemented, and monitored. To strengthen this work, we believe that the G20 can act in several matters outlined below.

Civic engagement

The lack of knowledge on participation and decision-making mechanisms creates information gaps and allows corruption to thrive. Improving knowledge of existing mechanisms for political participation can enhance citizens' sense of duty to hold public and private stakeholders accountable. Youth-targeted policies can help build this civic engagement from an early age. The G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan (ACAP) 2017-2018 does not address these issues. Therefore, we encourage G20 members to:

- Incorporate and/or strengthen civic education elements into national education plans by using available technological tools and involving relevant partners;
- Create and/or strengthen platforms that allow youth to become familiar with and participate in political and accountability processes at all levels of government.

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[25] This estimate for 2015 is an extrapolation by Daniel Kaufmann based on his earlier estimate of $1.1 trillion in Kaufmann (2005), cited by IMF Staff Discussion Note Corruption: Costs and Mitigating Strategies (2016).

Transparency

We believe transparency is a pillar of good governance and a fundamental element to combat corruption. Lack of access to information on governmental and business practices prevents effective accountability processes.

The G20 ACAP has set objectives related to this topic, but we believe further elements should be incorporated to increase transparency. Therefore, we suggest G20 members:

- Ensure that information about governmental practices at local, regional, and national levels, including transactions with the private sector, is publicly available online in structured databases;
- Create public, country-by-country online databases which list individuals and entities involved in corrupt practices.

Systematic monitoring

The G20 has agreed on a series of High Level Principles related to corruption. It has also established an Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) guided by biennial action plans. The ACWG has the mandate to review the implementation of the Action Plans. However, public information on this subject is fragmented between the websites of G20 presidencies and partner organisations. To ensure the systematic monitoring of G20 members' commitments in anti-corruption, we suggest:

- All information related to corruption in the G20 framework is centralised in a one-stop-shop portal that includes:
    - Outcomes of all G20 Summits on corruption;
    - ACWG reports on the progress of action plans;
    - Reports made by partners.
- Implementation of the ACAP should be subject to peer-review.
- Status on ACAP commitments by G20 members should be regularly updated in the portal, not only during the finalisation of reports.

Health and Wellbeing

We recognise health as a fundamental human right for everyone. In particular we stress the need for universal health coverage (UHC) to fulfill this right, and recognise the financial benefits of investing in sustainable health systems and the health workforce. At the same time, we also emphasize the need to attend to the determinants of health such as economics, governance, commercial factors, and social protection. A 'health in all policies' approach is necessary for this. Therefore, we warmly welcome the inclusion of a health minister meeting in this year's G20 process, and hope this tradition will continue. Health and wellbeing is a holistic issue, and we would like to highlight the importance of addressing the burden of youth including mental health. Finally, young people are affected by health issues both in the present and future, and should have a voice in the building of a healthy future.

Access to health care and universal health coverage

Access to health care services is crucial, and universal health coverage (UHC) is named as one of the goals for the 2030 Agenda. Promoting access to health care is a foundation of economic prosperity and security. No one should be left behind. Therefore, we recommend:

- Ensuring access to healthcare through de-linking health services from socio-economic (for example, reducing 'out-of-pocket' payments) and legal status (for example, migratory status, employment and housing);

- Recognise sexual and reproductive health and rights as an essential component of all UHC frameworks; and

- G20 members to align themselves with the recommendations of the High-Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth, and in particular implement guidelines for ethical recruitment of health workers to avoid aggravating health crises in other countries.

Health and economy

We recognise that economic structures, trade agreements, commercial interests and private sector regulations have a significant health impact and we encourage the G20 to take full measures to promote and protect health in this context. Therefore, we call on the G20 to:

- Implement the recommendations of the UN High-Level Panel on Access to Medicines and the Lancet Youth Commission on Essential Medicines Policies, and to ensure that TRIPS flexibility mechanisms are in place to provide access to essential medicines;

- Ensure that international trade agreements prioritize, promote and protect health and the environment over commercial interests, and ensure that trade agreements in no way limit the ability of governments to protect public health interests, including limitations brought on by investor-state dispute settlements or other investment protection mechanisms;

- Take action on commercial determinants of health through regulations of harmful and unhealthy products, incentivise healthy lifestyles and implement the WHO Framework Convention on Tobacco Control; and

- Reaffirm the essential role of governments in provision of health services and avoid reliance on private-public partnerships to deliver such services.

Global health governance

Cross-border public health emergencies have demonstrated the unpreparedness of health systems. We therefore need to establish resilient healthcare, strengthening global health governance and accountability. We therefore call on the G20 members to:

- Reaffirm and strengthen the role of the World Health Organization (WHO), through ensuring appropriate financing and supporting the proposed 10 per cent increase in assessed contributions;

- Commit to greater international cooperation amongst G20 members to address outbreaks and other health emergencies, including building capacity for the implementation of the International Health Regulations;

- Implement an effective donor strategy for health system strengthening in developing countries by moving away from an overreliance on vertical funding models and directing funding towards broad-based investments, designed to strengthen local institutions and provide countries with sustainable capacity to improve the long-term health of their population;

- Ensure greater accountability by unifying different reporting mechanisms under the WHO;

- Increase efforts on Official Development Assistance (ODA) by committing to 0.1 per cent of GNI to ODA for health, as recommended by the WHO Commission on Macroeconomics and Health; and

- Recognise the centrality of health to achieving the 2030 Agenda by committing to G20 health minister meetings under the presidency of Argentina and beyond.

Improving lives

Over 1 billion people live with a disability and/or chronic health condition and approximately 200 million of them are young. These people are often the subject of stigma and discrimination. About half of all disabilities worldwide could have been prevented by good access to suitable health care including early intervention and preventive measures. Therefore we recommend that the G20:

- Affirm that people with disabilities have the right to education and work without discrimination on the basis of equal opportunities, inclusive and accessible education systems and meaningful work at all levels. Promote the realization of the right to education and work by enshrining this in law;

- Extend legal protection to address discrimination against people with disabilities and those with chronic health conditions;

- Ensure that healthcare and other welfare services related to the disabled are adapted to their age and needs. The right to codetermination in their own daily lives should play a major role.

- Promote social policies that are conducive to mental health and wellbeing and establish programmes for early intervention.

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