

Civil20 Address to the G20 Leaders

We, the Civil20 participants and delegates of the G20 Civil Summit, endorse the initiative of the Russian presidency to incorporate civil society into the G20 consultations process. The Civil20 format has made it possible to set up a constructive and result-oriented dialogue between civil society and the government officials responsible for drawing up state policy. Such structured efforts should be continued under the subsequent presidencies. For this reason,

We propose preparing a mid-term collaboration strategy between the Civil20 and the G20.

We call on the G20 to make the accountability procedure transparent and to continue discussing the priority issues on the agenda with representatives of civil society.

We hope that the accountability reports the G20 prepares on its key decisions will be transparent and comprehensive and that the G20 will include the Civil20 in their discussion.

We pledge that members of civil society will also adhere to the principles of transparency and accountability.

We will promote the implementation of our recommendations in the G20 countries, including by monitoring the performance of the commitments adopted in compliance with our proposals.

We suggest that further Civil20 efforts be focused on drawing up general principles of collaboration between the state and civil society in the G20 countries. Collaboration should be based on rule of the law, balance of power, and information openness (transparency). Civil society should be autonomous from the state.

Civil society is transboundary and depends not only on local and national interests. This is precisely why it can and should become an important part of the global political dialogue. Transboundary financial support of civil society organizations is a common practice. When the activity of NCOs is legal and transparent, international financial support and participation in international cooperation should not be grounds for doubting their legitimacy.

Inclusive and forward looking societies depend on the distinctive and complementary roles of the public, private and civil society sector. Among these actors, civil society, as agents of the people, seeks to advance and preserve community interests and rights by promoting participation, transparency and accountability. Across all G20 countries there is a need to understand why the spaces for government – civil society dialogue have been shrinking. Civil society organizations understand that governments can be challenged to balance their to accommodate civil society with their responsibilities to regulate the sector. It is therefore proposed that, under the Russian Presidency, that the G20 be asked to support, in principle, that civil society will establish an all country working group with a mandate to present G20 leaders with recommendations for a universal platform for the common regulation of civil society along with a charter for the self-regulation by the sector and standards for ensuring transparent monitoring and reporting.

In 2013, Russia, as the G20 presiding country, expanded the consultations process with civil society by incorporating it into the discussion on its presidency priorities as a full-fledged social partner along with big businesses and trade unions. The G20 Civil Summit is the significant component of this process. We endorse a broader dialogue with civil society and hope that the G20's experience will be continued and developed by subsequent G20 presiding countries.

We encourage G20 countries to facilitate convention of annual regional, national and international civil society forums.

The Civil20 has formed seven working groups that operate in keeping with the priorities of the Russian presidency, and also a task force on equality. These efforts have produced a set of G20 recommendations to the G20 countries and a thematic report on G20 Proposals for Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth, which is attached to this Address.

We would like to draw particular attention to the following main proposals of the working groups:

The St Petersburg Initiative on Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth

1. The G20 should incorporate inclusiveness as the fourth pillar of the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth affirming the value of equality and inclusion along with economic growth and efficiency. The first step is to formally include distributional impacts and equality measures, and subsequently aspirational targets, within the Framework for Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth.

2. Affirm the need to strengthen public policy and the role of the state to tackle inequality, through a) macroeconomic policies focused on employment-generating growth; b) fiscal and monetary policies encouraging productive economic and social investment; c) stemming corruption and reducing tax evasion and avoidance; d) effective taxation systems and public expenditure.

3. Regard investment in human capital as investment into future growth. Promote universal access to high quality education and healthcare in ways that move toward wider and ultimately universal coverage, in an effective and fiscally responsible way.

4. Create a G20 Working Group on Equality to collaborate with appropriate international organizations and civil society groups to help refine and implement these recommendations, and devise new ones for actions by G20 leaders at their Brisbane summit in November 2014.

Labor and employment

1. In order to adjust labor markets and create more jobs, we recommend carrying out structural reforms that promote competition and reduce distortion of market incentives; we also recommend providing investment in infrastructural facilities as well as support for unified methods of measurement and processing of statistical data. The latter should be done with the purpose of making the process of evaluation of the impact of employment policies in different countries more efficient.

2. We recommend promoting labor mobility and the leveling of living standards through the development and adaptation of global standards in education and professional training at the grassroots level of local communities, as well as through mutual recognition of university degrees and vocational qualifications.

3. We recommend taking necessary action to support and facilitate employment of women, the youth as well as various minority and vulnerable groups (the disabled, ex-convicts, migrants, etc.), and eradicate discrimination towards them, in order to build society based on justice, equality of opportunities and inclusion, and thereby provide socioeconomic and other effects.

Financial Inclusion and Financial Education

1. Make efforts to increase access to financial services for people who currently have difficulties with access to them. Promote the development of private public partnership in the financial and banking sector in order to achieve this goal.

2. Strengthen the protection of the rights of consumers of financial services, in particular those with insufficient financial literacy, low-income, as well as women, youth and the elderly.

3. Introduce financial literacy in the school curriculum and take care of training of a sufficient number of instructors.

4. Provide consumers through the Internet and other media with financial information on financial literacy as well as how to avoid scams and abuse while using financial services.

International Financial Architecture

1. Restoring trust and adequate regulation of the financial system (particularly derivatives, shadow banking, all financial institutions etc.). The timely review of the regulation is recommended.

2. Creating incentives for creditor countries to help debtor countries to maintain their solvency for resolving the sovereign debt crisis. To guide a process of initial conceptualization and consensus building for a sovereign debt mechanism, an intergovernmental working group should be established.

3. Equalizing access to funding among the G20 countries while ensuring that the flow of capital intended for direct investments supports the three pillars of sustainable development: social, economic and environmental.

4. Obligating governments to monitor the impact of portfolio and foreign direct investments and the implementation of the corresponding social, economic, cultural and environmental safeguards.

5. Public Private Partnerships must not be allowed to socialize risks while privatizing profits, and poorer countries must be helped to ring-fence contingent liabilities such as foreign exchange risk.

6. Supporting various regional and multilateral monetary and financial coordination schemes in order to combat new aggravations in the crisis.

Environmental Sustainability and Energy

1. We call on governments to stimulate determination of ecologically and biologically important and sensitive areas and ensure that these areas are used and managed properly, including respect for rights of indigenous people and FPIC principals ((Free and Prior Inform Consent).

2. To develop and adopt new international norms on specific energy consumption in energy intensive branches. Thus, to introduce internationally harmonized standards for fuel chocking flow for newly produced motor vehicles.

3. We call on governments to adopt ecosystem approach to marine management and to stimulate development of national and trans boundary plans for management of seas with the aim to regulate, optimize and minimize anthropogenic impact on sea ecosystems, including North polar shelf

4. We call on the G20 to develop and adopt international criteria, procedures and standards allowing to choose and make decisions in the field of infrastructure projects financing. These criteria should to the full take into account and minimize risks as well as ecological and social costs. Also, take into account subsidiaries for production and consumption and volatility in fossil fuels prices. When developing energy infrastructure, to consider projects based on renewable power sources as having the advantages and conventional energy as unstable development path.

Anti-Corruption

1. G20 members must take necessary steps to curb illicit financial flows and increase corporate transparency, such as implementing strong anti-money laundering laws, encouraging automatic exchange of financial information and requiring public registers disclosing the beneficial ownership of trusts and companies.

2. Legislation requiring companies to publish payments to governments on a country-by-country and project-by-project basis should become a global standard.

3. G20 members should criminalise foreign bribery and publicly report on implementation and enforcement efforts.

4. G20 members should adopt and enact international standards for procurement and public financial management. Loophole-free whistleblower legislation should be enacted in all G20 member states.

5. All G20 members must ratify, implement and monitor the UN Convention against Corruption and the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, to ensure a joint, united, international approach to tackling corruption. These high standards should also be enacted in the private sector.

Millennium Development Goals and Post-2015 Development Agenda

1. We urge the G20 to act on their commitments to achieve the current MDGs, support the UN-member led post-2015 processes, and provide inputs to the post-2015 processes in the areas of G20 expertise.

2. We call on the G20 to ensure that the successor of the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP) prioritizes: a reduction in income inequality; food security and nutrition; tax transparency and fairer fiscal systems; better governance; combating corruption; and social protection.

3. We call on the G20 to ensure that the successor of the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan (MYAP) prioritizes: a reduction in income inequality; food security and nutrition; tax transparency and fairer fiscal systems; better governance; combating corruption; and social protection.

4. We call on the G20 to ensure that its core policies have a positive impact on development by adopting a Policy Coherence for Development (PCD) and mandate the Development Working Group to play a leading role to ensure that

decision-making on core G20 policies includes an assessment of the impact on people in both developing and developed countries.

Food Security

1. The G20 needs to take bold actions to address both the negative impacts of food price volatility and its root causes. An integrated approach is urgently required to support vulnerable populations by: strengthening and developing national social security systems which are inclusive of a strong food component; improving early response measures to food crises; addressing the root causes of food price volatility, and the distorting effect of financial speculation on commodity futures markets; and ensuring sustainable development.

2. To ensure a long-term growth of food production, not only government funding, but also increased public and private investment in agriculture is needed. Support for small scale producers must be increased to build resilience to climatic and economic upheavals. Solving the problems of food security will require the collective will and efforts of governments, international and regional organizations, nongovernmental organizations, and civil society, working with small scale producers themselves.

3. G20 governments should recognise the links between food security and nutrition including by endorsing the World Health Assembly's global goal to prevent 70 million children under age 5 from stunting by 2025.

Co-Chairs of the Civil20 Working Groups
Civil20 Secretariat

