**Recommendations of the Civil 20**

**on the G20 and Post-2015 Development Agenda[[1]](#footnote-1)**

We, representatives of international civil society, united within the “Civil Twenty” process (С-20), believe that the G20, as a forum for international cooperation on the most important global economic and financial issues, - and its individual member governments - can support the shaping of the post-2015 development agenda, while also accelerating progress to achieving the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs).

Although progress towards reaching the goals has been uneven, the MDGs have greatly contributed to freeing people from extreme poverty and multiple deprivations. Extreme poverty is falling in every region and the first MDG is reported to have been met. The target of halving the proportion of people without access to improved sources of water has also been met. The parity between girls and boys has been achieved in primary education. However, many of the goals are still set to fall short of reaching their targets by 2015. The continued support of G20 countries will be crucial in order to achieve these remaining important goals.

Since the creation of the MDGs in 2001, the world has changed a lot. Most of the world’s extreme poor no longer live in the least developed countries, but rather are citizens of middle-income countries. The new global development agenda needs to take into account both the changing contexts and the lessons learned from attempts to achieve the MDGs.

The process of reaching a consensus on what should come after the MDGs expire in 2015 is already underway. Agreeing and adopting a new set of development goals in 2015 will require the commitment of all the world’s governments, civil society and international organizations. In the case of the MDGs, by the time the UN proposed the goals, general consensus had already been developed on the main conceptual issues of international development.[[2]](#footnote-2) In the case of the post-2015 agenda, it is important that the UN leads the development of new goals as a legitimate and representative body. However, the G20 can play a role in supporting this agenda and helping to build consensus among its member countries. The G20 and its member governments will also clearly have a role in fulfilling commitments and reaching agreed goals under the new Post-2015 framework.

The Civil-20 recommends that:

1. The G20 should engage with the current processes to achieve the MDGs and participate in the development of a post-2015 development agenda;
2. In order to ensure that it contributes effectively to current and future development agendas, the G20 should:
   1. Revise its current development agenda;
   2. Ensure its core policies and actions are development-friendly; and
   3. Deliver greater G20 accountability.

**G20, the MDGs and the Post-2015 Processes**

1. **Demonstrate political will and consolidate financial resources to achieve the current MDGs**

The G20 should ensure that the UN process to develop the Post-2015 agenda does not impede the achievement of the current MDGs. Reaching the MDGs should be a top priority that lays the groundwork for even greater development achievements after 2015.

The G20 should:

* 1. Call on its member governments to demonstrate and act on their commitment to achieving the MDGs;
  2. Call on its member governments to commit sufficient resources to achieve the MDGs; and
  3. Promote a “beyond aid” agenda by agreeing on innovative financing mechanisms to accelerate progress to meet the current MDGs, with a view to utilizing these mechanisms to contribute to achieving the Post-2015 framework.

1. **Support the current UN Post-2015 process**

The G20 should encourage the open, inclusive and transparent process of the UN to reach a global consensus on the Post-2015 Development agenda. The efforts currently underway by the UN to develop a framework should not be undermined but rather supported and endorsed by the G20. While supporting the current UN process, the G20 can use its comparative advantage as the premier economic forum, to build consensus for a post-2015 framework among key global players, especially the emerging powers and BRICS countries.

More specifically, the G20 should:

1. Deliver collective statements:
2. In support of the UN-led inclusive consultation process on the post-2015 agenda, endorsing a bottom-up process for development of the post-2015 framework and the full inclusion of southern perspectives in the new framework; and
3. Defining the role of the G20 in relation to the development of a post-2015 framework in order to ensure there is no duplication with UN processes.
4. **Providing inputs to the UN-led Post-2015 process in the areas of G20 expertise**

In supporting the UN process already underway, the G20 can utilize its expertise to narrow the development gap and deliver fairer economic growth across the world.

The G20 should focus its post-2015 discussions within its area of expertise and mandate.

Specifically, the G20 should:

* 1. Take stock of evidence on global inequalities, their impact on growth and development, and policies that help to overcome inequality in order to help define how inequality could be tackled in a post-2015 agenda;
  2. Focus on the underlying economic drivers of poverty;
  3. Share experience and best practices in areas such as infrastructure, narrowing the productivity gap between rich and poor countries, food security, inclusive green growth, anti-corruption and human resource skills development.

**The G20's Agenda and Development**

The G20’s policies and practices as a whole must contribute to reducing inequality and tackling poverty head-on.

As G20 leaders explained in Seoul in 2010: “Narrowing the development gap and reducing poverty are integral to our broader objective of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth and ensuring a more robust and resilient global economy for all.”

1. **Reprioritisation of the Seoul Multi Year Action Plan**

The expiry of the Seoul Multi Year Action Plan (MYAP) commitments offers an opportunity for the G20 as a whole to reformulate and reprioritize its work on development. The Developing Working Group has an opportunity to adopt a new agenda for delivering fairer economic growth in developing countries. Specific, measureable and time-bound commitments on key issues need to be central to the successor to the MYAP, so that the DWG can better focus on delivering fairer economic growth in developing countries, and achieving agreed upon G20 development objectives.

The G20 should:

1. Prioritise the following key areas, making them - with specific measurable targets and indicators - the basis of the successor of the MYAP:
2. Deliver and measure a reduction in inequality;
3. Ensure food security including by addressing the root causes of food insecurity and the consequences of food price volatility;
4. Take action to address tax havens and improve tax transparency so that poor countries do not lose the revenue they need to invest in ending poverty and inequality;
5. Agree on innovative financing mechanisms to narrow the development gap and accelerate progress to meet and exceed the MDGs; and
6. Support the implementation of a rights-based social protection floor that is supportive of poor men and women's economic role throughout their lifecycle and which seeks to integrate crisis responses and long-term social protection systems.

**2. Ensure that G20 core policies have a positive impact on Development**

While the multi-year action plan (MYAP) is one way in which the G20 can support a new Post-2015 framework, the core G20 macroeconomic and financial policies have a significant impact on development.

Improving the development dimensions of the G20’s core polices would be a huge step forward for both development outcomes and the G20 itself.

Specifically, the G20 should:

1. Broaden its development focus to explicitly cover the implications of G20 core actions, for example, promoting development-friendly financial and trade regimes, dealing with global imbalances in trade, and tackling energy subsidies;
2. Ensure that decision-making on core G20 policies and actions includes an assessment of the impact on development;
3. Ensure greater outreach with developing countries by ensuring that half of the DWG’s membership is made up of developing countries;
4. Institutionalise the Civil 20 and require the DWG to be more transparent, and engage with civil society on an ongoing basis (on a par with B20 and L20 consultations).

**3. G20 Accountability**

The need for the G20 to have accountability mechanisms is well understood. In relation to the Post-2015 process, greater G20 accountability would mean a better understanding of the G20’s contribution to the development agenda, and the foundation would be laid for the proper planning of its ongoing contribution to the attainment of new framework.

The Los Cabos Accountability Assessment Framework (Framework) outlines G20 plans to assess its progress in meeting its commitment to achieve strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

Civil society welcomes those commitments as well as the intention “to build on an innovative global development partnership that will focus on concrete and sustainable results, deepening our engagement with the private sector and civil society.”

In order to achieve this enhanced accountability, the G20 should:

1. Publish in advance the terms of reference and member information for working groups and review mechanisms;
2. Make available for public comment all expert group and commissioned reports, assessments and recommendations scheduled for presentation at the Summits;
3. Publish advance meeting notices that include a list of the G20 commitments and outcomes under review; and
4. Establish clear rules requiring all G20 working groups and peer review mechanisms to seek substantial input from civil society, the private sector and affected communities.

**At this G20 summit, the G20 has an important opportunity to improve its development impact and to ensure its positive contribution to the Post-2015 development framework, as outlined in the above recommendations.**

**The G20 must step up to the challenge to prove its relevance to the world’s poorest people, and to demonstrate they are taking a long-term view on the world’s interests.**

1. Note: This draft paper represents the views of several organizations and is not exhaustive. It will be developed further following more substantial consultations with civil society. [↑](#footnote-ref-1)
2. This consensus was based largely on the OECD DAC report on ‘Shaping the 21st  Century’ and several other meetings and reports. [↑](#footnote-ref-2)