



ADVANCING THE GLOBAL GOALS ON SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT

A B20 Call to Action

TRANSFORMING FOR INCLUSIVE GROWTH



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Foreword

2020 has come to be a momentous year. The greatest and most complex challenge in a century has unravelled the vulnerabilities and fissures in the world, undoing a lot of the progress made since WWII. The ongoing health and socio-economic crisis with complex geo-political ramifications, has got the world wanting more of cooperation and collaboration.

As the world commemorates the 75th anniversary of the United Nations, its principles of unity, solidarity, multilateralism and international cooperation, seem more critical than ever for a prosperous and sustainable world. The UN system has a central role in galvanising international and multi-stakeholder collaboration for realising the shared universal goals for sustainable development or the SDGs. The UN is absolutely critical in catalysing and coordinating a global response to the COVID-19 pandemic.

In 2020, we are at the cusp of the Decade of Action. The report of the UN Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs states that the progress in the implementation continues to be too slow, uneven and either stalled or reversed in some areas.

As the G20 Leaders act on their commitment to do whatever it takes to overcome the pandemic, catching up with the necessary progress on the SDGs needs an integrated approach. Innovation in not just technological solutions but also in policy solutions are required that leverage interlinkages and minimize trade-offs across the 17 Goals and 169 targets.

That has been the guiding principle for the B20 Recommendations to the G20, this year. SDGs were consciously laid out as a cross-cutting theme across the focus areas of the B20. Effectively, every policy recommendation is qualitatively measured to contribute to the advancement of the relevant SDGs.

With that, the single-point message of all B20 Recommendations is that the G20 Members should lead the way in SDG-centric policy formulation, and should partner with the UN system and the business in its timely and effective implementation.

I am hopeful that this report helps the UN as well as the G20 in accelerating the progress on SDGs in the Decade of Action. The B20 reiterates its commitment to international cooperation and multilateralism, and the need for a stronger United Nations.

Yousef Al-Benyani
Chair, B20 Saudi Arabia

Executive Summary

The world is making a slower than required progress on the UN Sustainable Development Goals. The COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the world's vulnerabilities, inequalities, and fissures within and among countries. The report of the UN Secretary-General on progress towards the SDGs states that the progress in the implementation continues to be too slow, uneven and either stalled or reversed in some areas.

This emphasises the urgency for a global renewed commitment to solidarity, particularly between multilateral and political systems. The urgency is ironically more stark as the world commemorates the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The UN system has a central role in galvanising international and multi-stakeholder collaboration for realising the shared universal goals for sustainable development or the SDGs.

Business is an important player in partnering with other stakeholders to achieve the SDGs. Besides being a source of resources and solutions, business cannot flourish in a state of societal despair and environmental distress.

The B20 has ensured that its policy recommendations to the G20 contribute to the advancement of the SDGs. The 25 policy recommendations contribute to the advancement of 16 of the 17 SDGs.

Strengthening multilateralism, and coordination and collaboration at all levels of governance are a necessary condition for accelerated progress on the SDGs. The B20 advocates that doubling of efforts to achieve the SDGs should be a collective responsibility of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.

The realization of gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls is necessary to make progress across all the Goals and targets, and that responses to COVID-19 pandemic should be gender-responsive. The crisis is an unparalleled opportunity to transit from linear to circular economies powered by cleaner and efficient forms of energy. Systemic changes should be implemented across the inter-dependent economic sectors.

The B20 recommendations take cognisance of the fact that the 17 Goals and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible, balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development.

Action Council

Taskforces

							
1 NO POVERTY 							
2 ZERO HUNGER 							
3 GOOD HEALTH AND WELL-BEING 							
4 QUALITY EDUCATION 							
5 GENDER EQUALITY 							
6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION 							
7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY 							
8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH 							
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12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION 							
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Introduction

The world is far from being on track to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals by 2030. Periodic global report cards whether published by the UNDESA¹ or the non-governmental actors such as the Sustainable Development Solutions Network², underscore the need to scale-up and pace-up the efforts, with a sense of urgency. Every delay further compounds the cost of action.

If the progress made since 2015 was insufficient, the COVID-19 pandemic has exacerbated the world's vulnerabilities, inequalities, and fissures within and among countries. Some of the progress has been reversed, a lot of the development work is stalled, resources are unavailable and diverted to immediate relief efforts, though some of that might mitigate the extent of impact on some of the SDGs.

According to the 2020 Report of the UN Secretary General³, the pandemic is reversing the trend of poverty reduction, causing the first increase in global poverty in more than 20 years; devastating health systems globally and threatens already achieved health outcomes; school closures are adversely impacting learning outcomes, and social and behavioural development of children and youth; the world's labour markets is expected to result in a drop of around 10.5 percent in aggregate working hours in the second quarter of 2020, equivalent to 305 million full-time workers; small and medium enterprises, workers in informal employment, the self-employed, daily wage earners, and workers in sectors at highest risk of disruption are hit the hardest.

The pandemic is adding more hardships in the implementation of the SDGs. As COVID-19 continues to spread, global financial markets have experienced great losses and intense volatility, as over \$100 billion in capital has flowed out of emerging markets since the outbreak, the largest outflow ever recorded. World trade is expected to plunge between 30 percent and 40 percent in 2020, according to recent reports from the WTO, the OECD and the UNCTAD. Strengthening multilateralism and global partnership are more important than ever before.

This emphasises the urgency for a renewed global commitment to solidarity, particularly between multilateral and political systems. The urgency is ironically more stark as the world commemorates the 75th anniversary of the United Nations. The UN system has a central role in galvanising international and multi-stakeholder collaboration for realising the shared universal goals for sustainable development or the SDGs.

¹Independent Group of Scientists appointed by the Secretary-General (2019), *Global Sustainable Development Report 2019: The Future is Now – Science for Achieving Sustainable Development*, United Nations, New York.

²Sachs, J., Schmidt-Traub, G., Kroll, C., Lafortune, G., Fuller, G., Woelm, F. (2020) *The Sustainable Development Goals and COVID-19. Sustainable Development Report 2020*, Cambridge University Press, Cambridge.

³United Nations Economic and Social Council (2020), *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General*, New York.

Business is an important player in partnering with other stakeholders to achieve SDGs. Not just because it is a source of resources and solutions. But, also because business cannot flourish in a state of societal despair and environmental distress.

Business has been a vocal supporter of the SDGs. It has carried through with the commitment it made at the Rio+20 Summit in 2012, followed by its involvement in the development of the SDGs, and implementing solutions to achieve the targets. Many businesses, across geographies, sectors and scale, have used SDG as a framework for sustainable business strategy and disclosures.

The COVID-19 pandemic is highlighting the tensions between, and the need to meet shareholder and other stakeholder needs, manage financial and non-financial goals, and balance short-term and long-term imperatives. Business is expected to continue to do its part to help the society sail through the worst health and economic crisis in a century. Whether it is production and delivery of essential medical supplies, research and development for drugs and vaccines, minimising loss of employment, care for employees, and continuing to uphold values of integrity and respect.

At the cusp of the Decade of Action, the B20 reaffirms its support to achieve the SDGs. This is the time to accelerate and recover the lost progress on SDGs. The crisis is the opportune time for business to strengthen its commitment for government policies to *"build back better"*.

Strengthening multilateralism, and coordination and collaboration at all levels of governance is a necessary condition for accelerated progress on the SDGs. The B20 advocates that doubling of efforts to achieve the SDGs should be a collective responsibility of all relevant stakeholders, including the private sector.

The B20 has ensured that its policy recommendations to the G20 contribute to the advancement of the SDGs. In doing so, the B20 drew inspiration from the principles recognised in the 2030 Agenda, which are people-centred, transformative and universal in nature.

Furthermore, the B20 recommendations take cognisance of the fact that the 17 Goals and 169 targets are integrated and indivisible, balancing the economic, social and environmental dimensions of sustainable development. The B20, therefore, advocates for an integrated approach that leverages interlinkages and minimizes trade-offs across the Goals and targets. The crisis is an unparalleled opportunity to transit from linear to circular economies powered by cleaner and efficient forms of energy. Systemic changes should be implemented across the inter-dependent economic sectors.

Women in Business is a signature topic for the B20. Many policy recommendations contribute to the actualisation of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls. The B20 calls on the G20 and relevant multilateral institutions including the UN, to commit to targeted and accelerated action to remove all legal, social and economic barriers to achieve gender equality, full, effective and meaningful participation in policy- and decision-making.

The 25 policy recommendations contribute to the advancement of 16 of the 17 SDGs. This report is structured along the lines of the six taskforces and one action council of the B20. Recommendations from these groups are mapped to directly relevant Goals and targets to provide a qualitative potential of the advancement in each case. The policy recommendations are detailed in the separate policy papers⁴.

⁴Seven policy papers and the B20 Summary Recommendations can be accessed at www.b20saudiArabia.org.sa

Recommended Call to Action

- ▶ **Women in Business**
- ▶ **Digitalization**
- ▶ **Energy, Sustainability and Climate**
- ▶ **Finance and Infrastructure**
- ▶ **Future of Work and Education**
- ▶ **Integrity and Compliance**
- ▶ **Trade and Investment**

Recommended Call to Action



Women in Business

Gender equality is fundamental to delivering on the promises of sustainability, peace and human progress. Across key dimensions of well-being, women fare worse than men, according to a report from the UN Women and UNDESA⁵. At home, at work and in political life, women are too often denied decision-making power.

- While women represent 39 percent of the global workforce only 27 percent of managerial positions worldwide were occupied by women in 2018, up marginally from 26 percent in 2015.
- Women devote roughly three times as many hours a day to unpaid care and domestic work as men. This limits the time they have available for paid work, education and leisure and further reinforces gender-based social and economic disadvantages.
- The global gender pay gap stands at 23 percent globally and without decisive action, it will take another 68 years to achieve equal pay. Women's labour force participation rate is 63 percent while that of men is 94 percent⁶.
- In 2018, young women were more than twice as likely as young men to be unemployed or outside the labour force and not in school or in a training programme. Women hold less than a third of the world's research positions.

Root causes including legal discrimination, discriminatory social norms and attitudes, low levels of decision-making on the part of women and girls in sexual and reproductive health issues, and less than full political participation, undermine the ability to achieve SDGs.

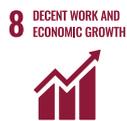
B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should unlock the advancement and full leadership potential of women by driving reforms, fostering an inclusive environment, ensuring fair and equal pay, and encouraging new ways of flexible working.

Relevant SDG



5 GENDER EQUALITY The recommendation primarily contributes to the achievement of SDG 5.1, 'End all forms of discrimination against women and girls everywhere' and SDG 5.C, 'Adopt and strengthen sound policies and enforceable legislation for the promotion of gender equality and the empowerment of all women and girls at all levels'.



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH Further, it fundamentally underpins SDG 8.5, 'By 2030, achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value'. It also resonates with SDG 5.4 'Recognize and value unpaid care and domestic work' in consideration of women's responsibilities which can hinder their economic participation and progression.



9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE Further, the recommendation reinforces SDG 5.5 'Ensure women's full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life', with special consideration of the proportion of women in managerial positions.

Finally, increasing women's participation in STEM and digital fields supports SDG 9.5 'Enhance scientific research, upgrade the technological capabilities of industrial sectors in all countries, in particular developing countries.'

⁵ United Nations (2019), *Progress On The Sustainable Development Goals - The Gender Snapshot 2019*, New York.

⁶ International Labour Organisation (2018), *Global Wage Report 2018/19: What lies behind gender pay gaps*. Geneva.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should promote female business ownership and create an enabling environment for female-founded start-ups and businesses

Relevant SDG

1 NO POVERTY



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 1.4 which speaks to ensure women (and men) have equal rights to resources, basic services, technology and financial services. It also contributes to SDG 5.A 'Undertake reforms to give women equal rights to economic resources, as well as access to ownership and control over land and other forms of property, financial services, inheritance and natural resources, in accordance with national laws' - policy actions around facilitating an enabling environment and access to financial and legal instruments for female business owners and entrepreneurs resonate particularly with this target.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



Further, this recommendation supports SDG 8.3 'Promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs), including through access to financial services.'

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



Finally, in consideration of female owned MSMEs the policy actions support SDG 9.3 'Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets'.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should apply a user-centric approach to policymaking and create synergies between stakeholders

Relevant SDG

1 NO POVERTY



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 10.3 'Ensure equal opportunity and reduce inequalities of outcome, including by eliminating discriminatory laws, policies and practices and promoting appropriate legislation, policies and action in this regard'.

10 REDUCED INEQUALITIES



The suggested multi-stakeholder and international cooperative approach also resonates with SDG 1.1.B 'Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions'.



Digitalization

Digitalization is considered to be an enabler for sustainable change. The SDGs describe digitalization technologies such as Information and Communication Technologies (ICT) as enablers of sustainable development. Global data establishes that digitalization does help in achieving, directly or indirectly, every developmental goal. However, adoption and penetration of digital solutions is not without trade-offs. For instance, environmental impacts due to growing e-waste, increase in abuse particularly on children and women, and obsolescence and displacement of jobs.

The UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD)⁷ identifies a series of indicators for digital divide that, if bridged, could help accelerate development progress.

- only 16 percent of individuals in least developed countries (LDCs) use the Internet, as against the SDG of universal access set;
- the urban–rural divide is enormous, with 3G networks covering 89 percent of urban areas but only 29 percent of rural areas;
- the Internet gender divide is most severe in developing countries;
- in LDCs, e-commerce use is below 2 percent of population, compared with more than 50 percent in many developed countries;
- in Africa, less than 40 percent of countries adopted data privacy legislation.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should enable and support a resilient digital infrastructure (IoT, 5G) by fostering the cybersecurity readiness of individuals, MSMEs, large businesses, and public institutions, and by promoting investment in human capital in the field of cybersecurity.

Relevant SDG

1
NO
POVERTY



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 1, specifically, targets 1.1 and 1.2 by facilitating digital connectivity, which plays a crucial role in increasing prosperity worldwide. Additionally, this recommendation is aligned to target 1.4 by proposing investment that will reduce connectivity gaps and incentivize affordable digital access, which in turn will ensure access to basic services and appropriate new technology.

9
INDUSTRY, INNOVATION
AND INFRASTRUCTURE



The recommendation also contributes to the achievement of SDG 9, especially targets 9.1 and 9.C, by developing a resilient digital infrastructure with an emphasis on providing affordable and equal digital access for all. It also contributes to the achievement of targets 9.4 and 9.5 by supporting the upgrading of technological capabilities of almost all sectors and industries, and by ensuring the spread of digital technologies to help promote sustainability, cultivate efficiency in resource utilization, and encourage research and innovation.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should support the healthy development and adoption of AI wherever possible by creating a favourable and trust-inducing regulatory environment, educating businesses, government, and society on the technology, and advancing AI benefits for all.

Relevant SDG

8
DECENT WORK AND
ECONOMIC GROWTH



The recommendation significantly contributes to the achievement of SDG 8, specifically target 8.1, by unlocking economic growth and generating productivity gains through the application of Artificial Intelligence (AI), which is expected to add \$15 trillion of value to the world economy by 2030. This recommendation also contributes to target 8.5, as AI

⁷ 'Information Economy Report 2017: Digitalization, Trade and Development', UNCTAD, 2017, Switzerland

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



promotes productive employment and decent work for all by reducing menial tasks and by producing greater efficiency.

As for SDG 9, this recommendation can contribute to achieving target 9.2 as AI technologies have the promising potential to drive inclusive growth and sustainable development. AI is expected to create 2M new jobs in companies, promoting economic prosperity. Additionally, this recommendation contributes to promoting innovation and sustainable industrialization, with a focus on achieving targets 9.5 and 9.b by ensuring a conducive policy environment and fostering the usage of data and AI technologies to support research and enable more innovation.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should lay the foundations for smart cities to thrive by supporting the building blocks for smart cities and fostering greater social acceptance of smart cities globally.

Relevant SDG

1 NO POVERTY



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 11 targets 11.3 and 11.b. Smart cities have the potential to address challenges of rapid urbanization such as housing availability, inclusion, sustainability, resilience to disasters, and resource efficiency, by applying emerging technologies and smart solutions to day-to-day life.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



This recommendation also contributes to the achievement of target 11.2, through accommodating the increased demand for transportation and upgrading the transportation system at large. For example, through supporting smart city elements such as smart roads, smart parking, low emission vehicles, and intelligent transportation technologies, which optimize traffic, and in turn, improve the road safety and sustainability of transportation networks.

It also contributes to SDG 1 as smart technologies, in the long run, can provide a more affordable way of life and improving the common standards of living.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should drive digital inclusion and grow digital skills by overcoming the digital skills divide, supporting and advancing innovative methods for digital education, and providing more digital job opportunities to women.

Relevant SDG

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 4 targets 4.3, 4.5, and 4.6. Tackling global digital skills divide and driving digital inclusion fosters equal opportunities in access to quality and more affordable education and promotes the spread of relevant skills required by the job market. Additionally, it facilitates knowledge acquisition by promoting digital learning methods that help to offer a variety of new learning modes that better suit the diversity of students.

5 GENDER EQUALITY



The recommendation also contributes to the achievement of SDG 5 target 5.5 and 5.b, by eradicating gender-based inequalities in access to ICTs, and by fostering women's contribution in the digital market through offering empowerment programmes and promoting the reduction of barriers. It can also enable effective participation of women in the job market by facilitating the development of new knowledge and skills, and by offering equal opportunities in terms of accessing capital, work and education resources.



Energy, Sustainability and Climate

The environment is an underlying aspect in all the SDGs. Many goals - water (SDG 6), climate (SDG 13), oceans (SDG14) and land and biodiversity (SDG 15) – directly relate to the quality of the physical environment. Other goals - natural disasters (SDGs 1 and 11), energy (SDG 7), economic growth and employment (SDG 8), industry (SDG 9), and cities (SDG 11) - indirectly relate to the physical environment. The SDGs cannot be achieved without fundamental environmental progress and call for an integrated approach to sustainable development.

Greenhouse gas (GHG) emissions generated from energy use are a major driver of global climate change. Reducing the carbon footprint of global energy use requires integrated approaches that combine measures to reduce energy use, lower GHG intensity of end-use sectors, decarbonise energy supply, and reduce net emissions and enhance carbon sinks. Long-term planetary sustainability requires both policy and technological innovations to bring about changes in the choices of fuels, the way they are produced and consumed, and the way in which resources are impacted systematically at every stage of the energy system.

Freshwater mobilises and amplifies the risks to human health and the environment associated with human activities. Freshwater is now simultaneously a public good and a risk multiplier, affecting human and ecosystem health through pollutants and through climate change. The per capita availability of freshwater in the global water cycle is decreasing with population growth, coupled with associated agricultural, industrial and energy requirements.

Approximately 1.4 million people die annually from diseases associated with pathogen-polluted drinking water and inadequate sanitation, with many millions becoming ill. The global disease burden could be cut by up to 10 percent with improved drinking water quality and access, sanitation, hygiene, and integrated water resources management.

Human pressures on the health of the oceans have continued to increase over the last decade, in concert with the growing human population and the expanded use of ocean resources. The economic, social and environmental costs of marine litter are continually increasing and include the direct economic costs of clean-up and loss of revenue from industries such as tourism and fishing.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should commit to achieve carbon neutrality in the second half of the century and preferably by 2050, and accelerate policy implementation towards this aim in line with the Paris Agreement goal of “holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels, recognizing that this would significantly reduce the risks and impacts of climate change”.

Relevant SDG

7 AFFORDABLE AND CLEAN ENERGY



The recommendation contributes to six SDGs, by proposing actions to reduce GHG emissions, as well as minimizing the likelihood of natural disasters due to climate change via mitigation actions. Notably, target 7.2 is addressed by accelerating the deployment of existing low-emissions and emission-neutral technology, which leads to significant increase in the share of renewables in the energy mix.

11 SUSTAINABLE CITIES AND COMMUNITIES



Moreover, the recommendation aligns with SDG 12, mostly targets 12.2 and 12.6, by suggesting actions to efficiently use existing resources, foster nature-based solutions and

⁸ UN Environment (2019). Global Environment Outlook – GEO-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People. Nairobi

⁹ International Resource Panel (2015). Policy Coherence of the Sustainable Development Goals: A Natural Resource Perspective. Nairobi: United National Environment Programme

¹⁰ Pachauri, R.K., and Meyer, L.A. (eds.), Climate Change 2014: Synthesis Report. Contribution of Working Groups I, II and III to the Fifth Assessment Report of the Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change, Geneva. Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (2014).

¹¹ UN Environment (2019). Global Environment Outlook – GEO-6: Healthy Planet, Healthy People. Nairobi

¹² Ibid

¹³ United Nations Environment Programme (2016). Marine Plastic Debris and Microplastics: Global Lessons and Research to Inspire Action and Guide Policy Change, Nairobi



circular economy, while enforcing actions for business to achieve environmental sustainability.

The recommendation contributes to SDG 15, specifically targets 15.2 and 15.5, by promoting nature-based solutions to address deforestation rates and prevent land erosion, while also suggesting actions to increase biodiversity.



Finally, knowledge sharing and government funding of R&D in a circular economy is encouraged to contribute to SDG 17.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should develop enabling regulatory and financial policy frameworks that support a transformation of their economies towards carbon neutrality in line with the Paris Agreement goal of *“holding the increase in the global average temperature to well below 2 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels and pursuing efforts to limit the temperature increase to 1.5 degrees Celsius above pre-industrial levels”*.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation primarily contributes to SDG 7, particularly targets 7.2 and 7.3, by implementing carbon pricing and promoting an international pricing platform, which will potentially reduce GHG emissions, as well as proposing actions to enhance energy efficiency.



The recommendation also contributes to SDG 12, mainly target 12.6, by introducing climate risk disclosure, which will reduce GHG emissions and air pollution and by suggesting actions to support a just transition and green jobs, and to 12.C, by working towards phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies.



Finally, the recommendation contributes to SDG 17, through funding support for developing countries particularly affected by climate change, thus addressing target 17.1. Moreover, 17.7, 17.13, and 17.18 are put in focus by promoting environmental innovations and technologies, providing actions to create green jobs by scaling zero-emission energy solutions, and acknowledging different timelines for countries to take action on climate change.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should strengthen the climate resilience of infrastructure by developing strategies for new or retrofitting existing infrastructure that can better withstand climate hazards enabled by appropriate risk assessment tools, transparent and tested standards, sustainable master planning and innovative financing vehicles.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation contributes to SDG 2, mainly addressing target 2.4, by reducing likelihood of natural disasters due to climate change via adaptation actions, such as introducing land development and building standards.



Additionally, the recommendations for climate risk assessment are suggested to add to SDG 12, specifically target 12.1.

13 CLIMATE ACTION

Finally, the recommendation contributes to SDG 13, targets 13.1 and 13.2, by reducing the likelihood of physical and material losses through promoting the construction and fostering the financing of climate-resilient infrastructure.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should define policies and guidelines that promote the sustainable use of freshwater systems and the ocean, thereby reducing the negative effects of human activities on water systems.

Relevant SDG

6 CLEAN WATER AND SANITATION

The recommendation contributes to the achievement of all targets of SDG 6, through the appeal to develop and build on existing initiatives and partnerships, such as 'UN-Water', that focus on water management and access, along with the preservation of the ocean and its resources. Moreover, proposing actions to ensure access to sustainable, clean water and adequate sanitation services, as well as promoting innovation to achieve it, while encouraging investment in wastewater treatment, will contribute to SDG 6 in a major way.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER

As to SDG 14, actions to protect marine areas and their biodiversity are suggested, which can be fulfilled by complying to the proposed guidelines for sustainable resource extraction in the oceans.



Finance and Infrastructure

Infrastructure - transport systems, energy systems, housing, water and sanitation, health and education facilities – is at the very centre of the efforts to meet SDGs. More importantly, the quality of resilient infrastructure built to meet future needs is crucial for sustainable development. All the SDGs are underpinned by infrastructure development, although SDG 9 explicitly refers to building resilient infrastructure.

Global infrastructure investment needs to reach \$94 trillion by 2040 to keep pace with profound economic and demographic changes. Based on the current trend, total investment will be around \$79 trillion; resulting in an investment gap of \$15 trillion. Meeting the SDGs increases the need by a further \$3.5 trillion, growing the gap to about \$18 trillion.¹⁴

Ensuring that finance itself meets sustainability criteria is as much important as financing sustainable development. In 2018, approximately \$58.8 billion in social and sustainability bonds were issued. Investors are increasingly using the SDGs as a benchmark for impact and are creating more demand for sustainability bonds¹⁵.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should encourage an increase in private financing in sustainable infrastructure by creating more investment-ready projects, mitigating the risk of sustainable projects' higher costs, and fostering a collaborative environment for sustainable risk assessments.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation primarily contributes to SDG 9, as it addresses the need to encourage a more sustainable pipeline of projects and a lower sustainable infrastructure financing gap. Addressing SDG targets 9.4, 9.5, 9.A and 9.B. Closing the financing gap includes the role of multi-lateral development banks, which support developing countries, addressing SDG 11.C.

Governments could address SDG targets 12.7 and 12.C, through procurement practices and introduction of incentives to encourage sustainable infrastructure,

Additionally, through the definition of sustainable infrastructure, it calls for social, economic and environmental sustainability. The inclusiveness and access regardless of gender addresses 5.1. While the support to environmentally friendly infrastructure, including clean energy, and the need to improve technology, addresses SDG targets 7.A and 7.B.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should facilitate sustainable financing by developing a roadmap for international coordination on sustainable finance taxonomies and alignment on a sustainable disclosure framework, across all ESG considerations.

¹⁴ Global Infrastructure Hub (2019), *Global Infrastructure Outlook: Infrastructure investment needs 56 countries, 7 sectors to 2040, Australia*

¹⁵ Taneja T., Sustainable Finance in 2019, Sustainalytics. Retrieved from <https://www.sustainalytics.com/sustainable-finance/2019/03/06/trends-in-sustainable-finance-for-2019/>



The recommendation contributes to the advancement of SDGs 5 and 12. The definition of sustainable finance, calls for environmental, social and governance sustainability. The social aspect of it includes inclusiveness regardless of gender addressing SDG target 5.1, which is 'end all forms of discrimination against all women and girls everywhere'.

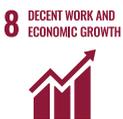


Additionally, the recommendation calls on encouraging ESG reporting for publicly traded corporations, addressing SDG target 12.6, which states 'encourage companies, especially large and transnational companies, to adopt sustainable practices and to integrate sustainability information into their reporting cycle'.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should promote the acceleration of the role of technology, including the role of data, in enhancing the environment for financial services innovation, while implementing regulations that increase trust and transparency in the financial sector.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation contributes to SDG target 8.10, which states 'strengthen the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and to expand access to banking, insurance and financial services for all'.

The recommendation calls for enhancing the environment for technological innovation in the financial sector, which for the unserved and underserved has a benefit of increasing financial inclusion and access to credit for MSMEs.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should strengthen the cooperative efforts between G20 Members to reduce market fragmentation and promote a level playing field, while ensuring a synchronized implementation of prudential reforms, and minimizing unintended consequences, to build a more resilient and effective financial system that supports the economy.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation contributes to advancement of SDG target 17.13, which states 'enhance global macroeconomic stability, including through policy coordination and policy coherence'. This recommendation calls for international coordination and collaboration in addition to consistent reform roll-out across jurisdictions,.



Future of Work and Education

The global society is far from achieving its shared ambitions as laid out in the UN SDGs. Poverty and inequality persist; decent work and quality education remain out of reach for millions around the world. The current state of labour markets and education systems are not able to address these. Despite progress in confronting these issues, that progress is at risk.

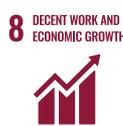
The world of work is undergoing a major process of change. The change to the nature and location of work has accelerated, and so has the speed at which the drivers of change, including communication technologies, automation, and digitalization. These changes could impact the place of work, employment relations, (de)centralisation of operations, user-delivered operations, and new forms of collaboration. The COVID-19 pandemic has further accelerated the adoption of such business models and processes. The ILO recognises that Future of Work has linkages with all 17 SDGs¹⁶.

Even before the outbreak of COVID-19, one in five countries – home to billions of people living in poverty – were likely to see per capita incomes decline in 2020, now compounded by the uncertain economic conditions¹⁷. Due to unemployment and underemployment caused by the current crisis, some 1.6 billion workers in the informal economy—half of the global workforce—are significantly impacted. Globally, the income of informal workers is estimated to drop by 60 percent in the first months of the crisis¹⁸.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should implement reforms to ensure a safe employment recovery within a more resilient labour market

Relevant SDG



The recommendation primarily contributes to SDG 8.5 which seeks to ‘achieve full and productive employment and decent work for all women and men, including for young people and persons with disabilities, and equal pay for work of equal value’. It also contributes to SDG 8.8 on protecting labour rights and promoting safe and secure working environments for all workers, including migrant workers, in particular women migrants, and those in precarious employment’.

The recommendation also supports SDG 1.3 on ‘implementing nationally appropriate social protection systems and measures for all, including floors, and by 2030 achieve substantial coverage of the poor and the vulnerable.’ The policy actions within this recommendation contribute to the achievement of SDG 5.5 which is to ‘ensure women’s full and effective participation and equal opportunities for leadership at all levels of decision-making in political, economic and public life’, as well as SDG 10.7 on ‘facilitating orderly, safe, regular and responsible migration and mobility of people, including through the implementation of planned and well-managed migration policies’.

¹⁶ International Labour Conference, 105th Session, (2016). *The End to Poverty Initiative: The ILO and the 2030 Agenda*. Report of the Director-General. International Labour Office, Geneva

¹⁷ United Nations, *Decent Work and Economic Growth*, accessed 16 August 2020, <https://www.un.org/sustainabledevelopment/economic-growth/>

¹⁸ United Nations Economic and Social Council (2020), *Progress towards the Sustainable Development Goals Report of the Secretary-General*, New York.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should proactively enable SMEs and entrepreneurs.

Relevant SDG

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 8.3 which is to 'promote development-oriented policies that support productive activities, decent job creation, entrepreneurship, creativity and innovation, and encourage the formalization and growth of micro-, small- and medium-sized enterprises, including through access to financial services.' It is also closely aligned to SDG 9.3 which seeks to 'increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets'.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should boost employability at scale through transformed education and lifelong learning.

Relevant SDG

4 QUALITY EDUCATION



The recommendation contributes to SDG 4.1, which states 'by 2030, ensure that all girls and boys complete free, equitable and quality primary and secondary education leading to relevant and effective learning outcomes', and SDG 4.2, which states 'by 2030, ensure that all girls and boys have access to quality early childhood development, care and pre-primary education so that they are ready for primary education'.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



In addition to supporting school education, the recommendation addresses adult education and contributes to SDG 4.3, 'by 2030, ensure equal access for all women and men to affordable and quality technical, vocational and tertiary education, including university', and SDG 4.4, 'by 2030, substantially increase the number of youth and adults who have relevant skills, including technical and vocational skills, for employment, decent jobs and entrepreneurship'.

The policy actions also contribute to advancement of SDG 4.C, which seeks to 'substantially increase the supply of qualified teachers, including through international cooperation for teacher training in developing countries, especially least developed countries and small island developing States by 2030'.

The policy actions related to creating a digital learning infrastructure also support SDG 9.C, which aims to 'significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020'.



Integrity and Compliance

Corruption impacts the society in a multitude of ways on a global and a local level. Politically, it undermines the rule of law and democracy, and erodes people's trust in institutions. Economically, corruption is a major barrier to inclusive growth; it leads to inefficiencies, hinders fair markets, and causes business disruption. Socially, corrupt practices reinforce inequalities and divisions, including with respect to gender. According to The World Bank Institute, \$1 trillion are paid in bribes per year. The COVID-19 pandemic has served to heighten focus on integrity and compliance in the healthcare sector and procurement for public services.

Corruption has the potential to undermine the successful implementation of all 17 Goals. SDG 16 targets of reducing bribery, strengthening institutions and accessing information are also vital conditions for the achievement of all the 17 Goals.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should pursue a culture of high integrity in the public and private sectors.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDGs 5, 16 and 17. Effective national anti-corruption strategies, including Collective Action and robust protections for whistle-blowers, are aligned with 16.4 (reduction of illicit financial flows) and 16.5 (reduction of corruption and bribery). Progress in these efforts will benefit from more intensive cooperation between the public and private sector, including specific partnership projects (17.7 – promote public, public-private and civil society partnerships).



Accelerating the empowerment of women in the fight against corruption is of critical importance as well, and is closely aligned to 5.5 (ensuring full and effective participation in leadership for women in political, economic and public life) and 5C (strengthen sound policies for the promotion of gender equality).

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should leverage emerging technologies to manage risks relating to corruption and fraud.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDGs 16 and 17. Technology continues to play a critical role in combatting corruption. The widespread use of globally accepted digital identities (SDG target 16.9) and public national registers of beneficial ownership data will help to reduce illicit financial flows (SDG target 16.4) and to reduce corruption (SDG target 16.5). Fostering advanced technologies to improve data quality in, and data sharing among, these national registers will require close cooperation between the public and private sector. Public-private partnership projects focused on technology innovation can accelerate these developments (SDG target 17.7).

B20 Recommendation

The G20 Members should enhance integrity and transparency in public procurement.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 16. Corruption in public procurement remains a major challenge. Given that a large share of the global GDP is represented by public sector acquisition of goods and services, reducing corruption in these activities offers a significant opportunity to substantially reduce corruption and bribery (SDG target 16.5) and to combat organized crime (SDG target 16.4).



Trade and Investment

SDGs recognize trade as an engine for inclusive economic growth and poverty reduction. For many decades, globalisation and expansion of international trade appeared to have promoted rapid development and poverty reduction particularly in developing countries. Trade is also vital to make available the necessary resources to achieve social and environmental targets. Increased globalisation and trade expansion could have trade-offs. Therefore, trade policies should reconcile with development plans.

However, a rise in trade-restrictive measures since 2019 — especially between major economies — and the suspension of activities of the WTO's Appellate Body have created new challenges for the multilateral trading system. In addition, the COVID-19 crisis is having a major impact on global supply and demand, leading to disruptions in global supply chains for both goods and services.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should strengthen the multilateral trade and investment system, while pledging to a standstill and rollback of protectionism, supporting open markets, and enforcing and advancing the rulebook to ensure a global level playing field.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG 10, especially target 10.A, by supporting an institutional and regulatory framework conducive to achieving increased duty-free access to world markets for developing regions at large, and by calling for a review of the provisions on special and differential treatment to make them more effective.



By supporting measures to strengthen the participation of developing countries in WTO negotiations, it also contributes to achieving SDG 10.6., which pursues enhanced representation and voice for developing countries in decision-making in international economic and financial institutions, with the aim to deliver more effective, credible, accountable and legitimate institutions.

It also contributes to the achievement of SDG 17, especially targets 17.10, 17.11., and 17.12., by promoting a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory, and equitable multilateral trading system under the WTO, and decreased tariffs to contribute to a more open trading system. While in 2017 trade-weighted tariffs decreased to an average of 2.2 percent worldwide, there are still high regional disparities that reflect global economic imbalances. The export shares of Least Developed Countries need to grow at a quicker rate to achieve the Istanbul Programme of Action, and the scope of preferential tariffs applied to developing and least developed countries needs to be expanded.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should foster the growth of e-commerce by striving to conclude a comprehensive, balanced, and high-standard WTO agreement that is attentive to the needs of MSMEs, start-ups, and developing economies.

Relevant SDG



The recommendation mainly contributes to the achievement of SDG target 8.3, encouraging the growth of MSMEs by reinforcing the enablers of e-commerce and securing their access to world markets.

A B20 Call to Action

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



It also contributes to the achievement of SDG target 5.B, by calling for the build-up of e-commerce capacities, especially in developing countries and for MSMEs, with a clear focus on female entrepreneurship to promote the inclusion of women in e-commerce networks.

9 INDUSTRY, INNOVATION AND INFRASTRUCTURE



In addition, it contributes to the achievement of SDG target 9.3, by promoting the inclusion of MSMEs into global value chains and markets.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should promote trade in services and facilitate trade finance and insurance solutions by supporting ongoing services negotiations within the WTO, facilitating access to trade finance and insurance, and supporting service exports in travel-related sectors.

Relevant SDG

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The recommendation mainly contributes to the achievement of the SDG 8, particularly target 8.9, which states 'by 2030, devise and implement policies to promote sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products'. It also contributes to the achievement of SDG target 8.10, by strengthening the capacity of domestic financial institutions to encourage and expand access to banking, insurance, and financial services.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



It also contributes to SDG 12, specifically target 12.B, which seeks to 'develop and implement tools to monitor sustainable development impacts for sustainable tourism that creates jobs and promotes local culture and products'.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The recommendation contributes to SDG 14, specifically target 14.7, which states, 'by 2030, increase the economic benefits to Small Island developing States and least developed countries from the sustainable use of marine resources, including through sustainable management of fisheries, aquaculture and tourism'.

B20 Recommendation

The G20 should encourage and promote coherence between the multilateral trade and investment system and other relevant International Organizations, especially with regard to achieving the SDGs, responding to climate change, and ensuring a smooth transition to sustainable and diversified economic development.

Relevant SDG

8 DECENT WORK AND ECONOMIC GROWTH



The recommendation contributes to the overall achievement of the SDGs by 2030, by calling for a better alignment between the multilateral trading and investment regime and the system of the UN SDGs.

12 RESPONSIBLE CONSUMPTION AND PRODUCTION



The recommendation particularly contributes to SDG 8. Specifically, it contributes to achieving target 8.2 by focusing on the increase in economic diversification and productivity; target 8.3 by promoting development-oriented policies that encourage the growth of MSMEs; target 8.10 by suggesting measures to increase access to finance; and target 8.A by calling for a better alignment of existing development programmes with efforts to increase retention of Foreign Direct Investment.

14 LIFE BELOW WATER



The recommendation also strongly contributes to the achievement of SDG target 7.A. The promotion of trade of a number of important environment-related products enhances international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, and to promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

Finally, the recommendation contributes to the achievement of SDG target 5.A, by promoting an inclusive trading and investment system, especially for women, and SDG target 14.6, by calling for a sustainable use of marine resources.





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