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The Group of Twenty (G20)

Since the onset of the 2008-2009 financial crisis, the Group of Twenty (G20)—whose membership consists of systemically important advanced and emerging economies—has emerged as the principal forum for inter-governmental economic cooperation.

Together, the G20 economies account for 85% of the global economy, 80% of world trade, and two-thirds of the global population. Those simple facts underline the significant potential of the G20 as a global platform to enable international economic co-operation and policy making. The members of the G20 are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, the Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States of America, and the European Union.

Think-20 (T20)

The G20 has sought to incorporate policy contributions from an ever-broader cross-section of society, which are organized under five groups: Business 20, Labor 20, Civil 20, Think 20, and Youth 20.

Think-20 (T20) was initiated during the Mexican G20 presidency and continued during Russian and Australian G20 presidencies. T20 Turkey will host the fourth T20.

T20 has a different character than other engagement groups. T20 is not an advocacy platform that campaigns around specific issues, nor does it seek

to negotiate an agreed set of recommendations on the issues to be progressed. Instead, the Think-20 serves as an “ideas bank” for G20. For this purpose, T20 organizes the analysis of global think tanks and high-level experts in order to provide analytical depth to ongoing G20 discussions and produce ideas to help the G20 on delivering concrete and sustainable policy measures. T20 conclusions are presented to G20 working groups, minister committees and leaders summit as policy-options, not recommendations.

T20 Turkey 2015

The Economic Policy Research Foundation of Turkey (TEPAV) will lead the T20 outreach group during Turkey’s G20 Presidency in 2015.

In 2015, T20 will emphasize developing policy measures to support the G20 growth agenda set by the “Brisbane Action Plan.” At Brisbane, the G20 leaders agreed on 800 measures that are estimated to increase their economic output by 2.1% by 2018.

T20 Turkey will also ensure the continuance of T20 debates in Australia: global governance, macroeconomic coordination, financial stability and reform, investment and infrastructure, trade and development will also be key issues in 2015. An Innovation and Technology theme is introduced as a future G20 agenda.

Moreover, following T20 Australia’s lead, T20 Turkey will continue to support the G20 agenda by producing targeted policy papers. Think 20 Turkey will also commission reports for aforementioned themes.

The Think20 kick off event in Istanbul on February 10-11 includes panel discussions that are designed to facilitate collective brainstorming aimed at producing

ideas. The panels will also serve as a vantage point for subsequent Think20 thematic meetings in 2015. Participants will be encouraged to prepare joint papers to be discussed during future thematic meetings. A final edited volume including submitted policy papers and policy discussions will be published. T20 conclusions will be presented to G20 working groups, sherpas, minister committees and leaders summit as policy-options.

Calendar

T20 events can be grouped as major events and thematic meetings. So far the following Think20 events have been confirmed:

February 10-11 (Istanbul) T20 kick-off meeting

April 17 (Washington) TEPAV G20 paper launch at Brookings event

May, 4-5 (Ottawa) TEPAV –CIGI joint event on “Financial Stability and Reform”

May (TBD) (Berlin) TEPAV – EPF joint event on “Innovation and Technology & SMEs”

June 14-18 (Bodrum) T20 Conference (including thematic seminars)

July 23-24 (Shanghai) G20 and Energy Governance conference

July (TBD) (Beijing) G20 and Global Governance conference

September 3-4 (Ankara) T20 Workshop

November 15 (Antalya) Global Thinkers Platform Conference