Civil20 Recommendations to the G20 Countries

The primary results of Civil20's work are the Recommendations to the G20 countries. In order to prepare recommendations, thematic working groups were created in areas that correspond to the priorities of the Russian G20 presidency in 2013:

- International Financial Architecture
- Environmental Sustainability and Energy
- Food Security
- Jobs and Employment
- Anti-Corruption
- Post-2015 MDGs
- Financial Inclusion and Financial Education

Two co-chairmen have been chosen for each group, one Russian and one international, who are responsible for collecting and compiling recommendations from civil society. Collecting proposals was carried out using an online crowdsourcing platform called *Civil20—Dialogues* (developed similarly to the online platform Rio+20). Membership in the working group was open (each group had about 160 representatives from various G20 countries). Participants had the opportunity to give their recommendations, leave commentary, participate in discussions, and vote for recommendations. For Russia's civil society, a series of round tables were organized in the Civic Chamber of the Russian Federation to discuss the draft recommendations. The recommendations were ratified in three stages: preparation of the first draft of a position paper by an initiative group under the leadership of a co-chairman, the preparation of a second draft based on discussions from the *Dialogue* online platform, and the adoption of the third draft based on a vote. In this way, the position papers reflect recommendations that received the most support from the civil society.

The Russian presidency managed to organize a constructive, result-oriented dialogue with representatives from the civil society's working groups. Meetings were held with the co-chairmen of the civil working groups and the Russian co-chairmen of the G20 working groups. Co-chairmen of the G20 working groups had the opportunity to make a public statement about their stances at the meetings of the G20 working groups and at the Sherpa's meeting, which was an innovation introduced within the framework of Russia's presidency. In this way, a synergy was achieved between the Civil20 and the Business20.

As a result of this, about 50% of the Civil20's recommendations were accounted for in the G20's recommendations. Some groups (e.g. Financial Inclusion and Financial Education) saw their positions line up 100%, affirming a similar approach to the issue of increasing access to financial services and the protection of consumers, including, in particular, a broad use of financial education.

Work done by the Civil20 groups resulted in consensus on key recommendations. However, the open discussions brought to light several differing opinions about a single issue. In the International Financial Architecture group, for instance, several approaches emerged to solving some problems. In particular, one approach was based on whether civil society needs greater regulation of the financial system, which would significantly limit financial institutions' activity.

Others spoke about the need for effective regulation and restoring faith in the financial system. As a result of these approaches, two different position papers came about on one issue. The document, the contents of which ended up being effective regulation, fell broadly in line with the stance of the Russian G20 presidency.

Civil society believes that the international financial system should work for the people and the world as a whole. Open access to financing should become the main goal of the new global financial architecture. There is still much distrust in the financial sector as a whole. A faction of civil society believes that the financial sector should make large investments to social development, including a tax on financial transactions.

Environmental sustainability is the cornerstone of economic and energy policy for many countries. Civil society believes that the G20 should enhance positive trends in the areas of energy efficiency and diversification of energy sources through the gradual elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, refusal to subsidize the construction of nuclear power plants and large hydropower stations, and the introduction of additional measures to support renewable energy and technologies.

Suggestions from civil society for anti-corruption focus on promoting cooperation among the G20 in financial management and better protecting the public's interests in the financial sector. Improving the exchange of information about corruption incidents between state bodies and civil society organizations can be beneficial in promoting compliance with anti-corruption legislation.

Civil society is concerned by the high level of unemployment, which threatens not only individuals and their families, but is also one of the most important factors in social instability overall. From a civil society point of view, global standards of knowledge and professional qualifications could contribute to the mobility of the work force and the equalizing of living standards, thereby reducing social tensions and ensuring job security during times of crises and recessions. Globalization of the labor market isn't just all benefit, but it also carries significant risks for the G20 member states.

Achieving food security is one of the biggest issues for the 21st century. Civil society feels that developing a long-term strategy for food security should be aimed at increasing sustainability among the most vulnerable segments of the population and support in the agro sector, especially for smallholder farmers.

Civil society supports the multilateral efforts of UN in reaching their Millennium Development Goals and the consultation process aimed to propose a new post-2015 development agenda. The role of the G20 as the largest informal economic forum could be in drawing up economic measures and financial tools (both within the framework of official development aid and outside of it) that assist in achieving these goals. The Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan should be reviewed and updated.