



Opening statement by the Organizing Committee

The world is experiencing a polycrisis as it slowly and unevenly recovers from the COVID-19 pandemic. This polycrisis is characterized by interconnected and cascading geopolitical, socioeconomic, and environmental risks and threats. The ever more tangible impacts of climate change and biodiversity loss are compounded by rising international and internal armed conflict, deepening economic inequalities and financial instability, with developing countries, particularly low-income ones, facing persistently high debt levels and shrinking fiscal space. The latter jeopardizes their capacity to increase investments that are necessary to catch up on lagging outcomes related to the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

The Brazilian Presidency of the G20 has laid out three key priorities: (i) fighting hunger, poverty, and inequality; (ii) energy transitions and sustainable development (social, economic, and environmental); and (iii) global governance reform. Among these priorities, tackling inequalities is emphasized as a crosscutting goal as they are either the root cause of current challenges or contribute to making them worse. Within and across countries, inequalities make it harder to fight hunger and poverty, to foster social inclusion, to advance just and inclusive energy transitions, to balance the three core components of sustainable development, and to promote the necessary investments to accelerate progress toward the SDGs and the Paris Agreement targets. Moreover, unequal representation and voice in global governance structures also hinders the reforms that are necessary to build a just world and a sustainable planet.

In this context, the G20 should leverage its position as an agenda-setting platform to advance the reform and strengthening of global governance and international finance mechanisms so that these organizations are better equipped to tackle the above-mentioned systemic challenges, to unlock the necessary resources, and to channel efforts to attain the SDGs and the Paris Agreement targets. International cooperation to leverage the fight against hunger and poverty, to accelerate just energy transitions, to address financial stability and the debt burden, supporting fiscal space for sustainable development-related investment, and to foster inclusive digital transformation will be a key driver of economic and social development in the 21st century, contributing to combat structural inequalities.

The priorities of Brazil's G20 presidency are reflected in the six Task Forces of Think 20 Brasil. The Organizing Committee, composed of the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI), the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation (FUNAG), and the Institute for Applied Economic Research (IPEA), has sought to follow the key principles of inclusiveness, representativeness, and effectiveness throughout the collaborative process that resulted in the actionable recommendations presented in this Communiqué. The recommendations are based on more than 300 Policy Briefs that were submitted to, peer-reviewed and approved by the Task Forces, alongside dozens of side events organized during the past months and the Inception Conference held last March. We present these policy proposals that will, jointly with the recommendations from other engagement groups, give think tanks and a variety of representatives from civil society and academia the opportunity to inform the G20 decision-making process and influence the design of new international cooperation pathways to address global challenges and inequalities.

Priority recommendations to the G20

Based on the recommendations of the six T20 Brasil Task Forces, the Organizing Committee has outlined the following ten crosscutting priority recommendations to the G20, ordered by the number of Task Forces that provided inputs and language for them.

1. Strengthen multilateral cooperation under the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty:

The G20 must secure high-level political support and commitment to the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty that will be launched at the end of Brazil's term at the G20 presidency. For the Alliance to work as a catalyst for international action to accelerate progress toward the SDGs, in particular SDGs 1 and 2, it must effectively mobilize adequate funding (e.g. through a successful 21st replenishment of the International Development Association), facilitate access to existing but fragmented funds, and foster knowledge sharing and technology transfers to support countries in the implementation of evidence-based nationally-owned policies. Successful policy instruments that have been implemented in the Global South to build and scale up both sustainable food systems and comprehensive adaptive social protection systems can be shared and adapted through trilateral, South-South, North-South and even South-North cooperation with the support of the Global Alliance. Policy instruments that accelerate the transition to sustainable agrifood systems can help achieve food security and nutrition target outcomes with positive or neutral impacts on the natural environment. Likewise, social protection systems help people cope with crises and shocks, find jobs, invest in nutrition, health and education of their children, and protect the elderly and people with disabilities, besides working as a macroeconomic automatic stabilizer

during crises. By bringing together high-level political commitment, knowledge and finance to support and scale up components of these two reinforcing systems, the Global Alliance can decisively contribute to end poverty and hunger, promote just transitions and adaptation, reduce inequalities, and help achieve both the right to food and the right to social protection.

2. Employ progressive fiscal policy and repurpose fossil fuel subsidies to reduce inequalities and to promote climate justice:

G20 members should support, within the UN Framework Convention on International Tax Cooperation (UNFCITC), the creation of a global minimum tax on high-net-worth individuals and high-pollution corporations, as well as the enhancement of international cooperation instruments to combat tax evasion. Global and national resources raised through these mechanisms and by repurposing fossil fuel subsidies must be used to strengthen redistributive policies, universal social protection systems, decent job creation, and climate change adaptation and mitigation initiatives, especially in developing economies and in vulnerable communities. For fiscal policies to uphold human rights principles, the commitment to leave no one behind, and just transition goals, the G20 should also promote tax transparency, improve public country-by-country reporting, and guarantee that the UNFCITC has an inclusive governance architecture.

3. Leverage affordable climate and sustainable development finance, including resources needed to promote just energy transitions:

The G20 should support the roadmap for reforming Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) proposed by the Brazilian presidency and optimize access to Multilateral Climate Funds (MCFs) in furtherance of finance affordability, transparency, and of the standardization of allocation criteria that prioritize vulnerable and low-income countries and communities. The Group must promote cooperation among MDBs to pool and share risks, explore diversification of sources, and expand and improve opportunities to use local currencies. Robust public concessional funding and grants should be complemented by innovative blended finance mechanisms to address existing finance gaps and market failures and to de-risk investments in developing countries, leveraging the allocation of private resources for climate and sustainable development.

4. Provide capacity building, technology transfer and adequate funding for national transition plans, including measures to leverage climate adaptation and bioeconomy:

The G20 should offer institutional and financial support for each country to build its own capacity to design and implement transition plans that promote climate change adaptation and mitigation, the conservation and sustainable use of biodiversity resources, and universal access to clean, affordable energy. These plans should also include the reskilling of workers for a low-carbon economy and adaptive social protection to support populations living in regions facing environmental risks. Increasing cooperation to strengthen country platforms, consolidate sustainable project pipelines, and facilitate the transfer of technologies is key to promote green industrialization pathways and direct investments to underfunded areas such as bioeconomy and climate adaptation, especially in developing countries.

5. Reform the G20 Common Framework for Debt Relief and the International Monetary Fund's (IMF) lending policy to expand fiscal space for investments in inclusive and sustainable development:

G20 countries should support the incorporation of development needs and climate considerations in the framework of the IMF Debt Sustainability Analysis (DSA), as well as the reform of the quota system so that a larger share of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) is available to developing countries in future allocations. The G20 must also advocate a cap on the SDR interest rate and promote a countercyclical design of the surcharge system to protect countries from rising borrowing costs during periods of financial stress. The Common Framework should be reformed to provide stronger incentive for multilateral and private creditors to participate in debt restructuring negotiations, extending support to more debtor countries, improving the comparability of treatment across creditor classes, and linking debt relief to the SDGs through innovative procedures. To this end, G20 countries must establish international guidelines to leverage the use of financial instruments that reduce the cost of capital in exchange for social and environmental commitments made by debtors in sovereign debt negotiations.

6. Establish Data20, a multistakeholder platform to enhance cooperation on global data governance:

Data20 should serve as a hub for collaboration across the G20 and its existing formal engagement groups, promoting discussions and formulating policy proposals that leverage benefits, promote accountability and reduce harms associated with the production and use of data. Debates on data governance should be centered on crosscutting issues such as information integrity, climate justice, health, the future of work, non-discriminatory Artificial Intelligence (AI) systems, Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs), and regulatory parity based on human rights and data justice.

7. Improve cooperation to enhance meaningful connectivity, inclusive DPIs, and human-centered AI:

The G20 should develop a common framework and leverage financial resources to promote the participatory governance and co-design of DPI and AI, fostering accountability and an inclusive, unbiased, self-determined approach to digital-data development. The Digital Economy Working Group, the Environment and Climate Sustainability Working Group and the Infrastructure Working Group should strengthen collaboration to prioritize the inclusive digitalization of public services and the use of AI to promote greater resource efficiency in energy, transportation, health, and other critical systems, channeling efforts to attain the SDGs and to address the North-South digital divide.

8. Reform and strengthen the World Trade Organization (WTO) as the main forum for global trade, services and investment facilitation negotiations, including in relation to trade standards that address climate and digital transformation:

The G20 must work to increase the WTO's capacity to safeguard an open, fair, equitable and sustainable trade system by strengthening its negotiation, monitoring and enforcement mechanisms. This involves addressing the proliferation of neo-protectionist and burdensome national trade barriers, while promoting the development of common international standards concerning the digital transformation and sustainability of global supply chains. This process should also include renewing the WTO's mandate, reinvigorating its dispute settlement system and supporting plurilateral negotiations.

9. Address unequal access to healthcare and promote technology transfers and global cooperation on vaccination, medicines and strategic health supplies in developing countries:

The G20 should prioritize universal health coverage and the organization of health systems by expanding accessible health services to vulnerable populations, communities, and regions, as well as increasing health system funding, technological transfer and digital inclusion. To this end, developing a shared digital infrastructure for global coordination during and outside crisis contexts is key. The G20 should also support the creation of a global vaccination fund to ensure prevention and rapid and equal vaccine distribution during health crises and epidemic events, and should also reduce the restrictions that intellectual property rights can pose on access to medicines and to other health treatments and therapies.

10. Translate into actions G20 commitments on gender, racial, and ethnic equality:

The G20 should ask the UN Statistics Division to support countries in the generation of disaggregated data for the design and implementation of unbiased evidence-based policies to address intersecting gender, racial, and ethnic inequalities and discrimination. Global and national efforts must focus on implementing policies that guarantee equitable access to quality education, health, credit, decent work, and business opportunities, as well as on the professionalization and development of the care economy. To this end, it is essential to conduct long-overdue reforms in the governance structure of multilateral organizations and international financial institutions, while simultaneously promoting participatory mechanisms and community engagement in nationally-owned policies, to achieve fair and equitable gender, ethnic, racial and regional representation in decision-making processes.

Acknowledgements

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Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI)

CEBRI is an independent and non-profit think tank that has since 1998 been dedicated to promoting constructive debate on agendas that serve the national interest and on Brazil's competitive and strategic participation in the global arena. Based in Rio de Janeiro, CEBRI is recognized in Brazil and abroad as a platform for the analysis, development, and coordination of pragmatic and innovative solutions. The CEBRI Board of Trustees includes recognized national leaders and is a key part of CEBRI's non-partisan, diverse, and plural network of experts in various fields and perspectives. Our more than 100 members believe in and promote our mission: to influence a constructive and high-level dialog on Brazil's international relations. The CEBRI community encompasses not only individual members and several foreign diplomatic offices, but also major Brazilian companies active in various industries.

cebri.org



Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation (FUNAG)

The Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation was created in 1971 to promote research, organize educational activities, and increase public awareness in the areas of foreign affairs and diplomatic history. It operates as a public foundation affiliated with the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and includes two research institutes: the International Relations Research Institute (IPRI) and the Center for Diplomatic History and Documentation (CHDD). FUNAG is the largest publishing house in Portuguese for foreign affairs and diplomatic history. Many of FUNAG's publications are distributed free of charge to public libraries and other institutions in various countries. FUNAG also organizes seminars, conferences and courses in collaboration with universities, research centers, non-governmental organizations, and other partners. FUNAG promotes its publications through various channels, including a digital library with over 1000 free publications.

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Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA)

Created in 1964, the Institute for Applied Economic Research is a government think tank affiliated with the Brazilian Ministry of Budget and Planning. Staffed with more than 200 experts on applied research and public policy planning, IPEA covers various fields of knowledge such as macroeconomics, urban and regional development, environmental, social, institutional and international studies. IPEA's work is known in Brazil and abroad for its high quality and diverse methodological approaches. IPEA's mission is to provide the Brazilian Government with the best evidence possible to design, evaluate, and implement public policies and to communicate its findings and recommendations to Brazilian society at large.

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