

OECD-UNDP G20 Workshop

5 November 2018, Paris, France

Summary report

Under the theme of “Sustainable Development and Inclusive Globalisation”, the OECD-UNDP G20 Workshop on 5 November 2018 aimed to support G20 members in pursuing the implementation of the [G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda](#), elaborating on strategic thinking and forward looking ideas to further contribute to the 2030 Agenda implementation in the context of the G20’s overall collective contribution to sustainable development for all, and developing options for further action and smooth transition towards the Japanese Presidency of the G20 in 2019. It brought together over 100 representatives from G20 as well as non-G20 countries (members of the [OECD Development Centre](#)), international organisations, G20 engagement groups ([Think20](#), [Civil20](#), [Women20](#), [Youth20](#)), civil society representatives (e.g. [Foundations20](#)) and experts. In plenary sessions and break-out group discussions, participants had the opportunity to engage in a brainstorming on how the G20 can better address global sustainable development challenges and advance towards inclusive growth and sustainable development for all.

The workshop included sessions on four topics:

- International Co-operation for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Globalisation
- Quality Infrastructure for Connectivity Enhancement
- Human Capital Investment
- Financing for Sustainable Development

The workshop was characterised by an open and frank exchange of views on important challenges of our time and made emerge a variety of ideas and approaches on how the G20 can contribute to sustainable development going forward. Six key messages from the workshop are summarised below. Further, the following pages present a succinct summary of the key messages from each session. Moreover, the key messages of the session on “Engaging other G20 work streams, Engagement Groups and Citizens” on 6 November during the ensuing informal G20 Development Working Group meeting are included in this summary report as well.

Six key messages from the workshop

1. The global landscape is changing and the G20 should provide leadership in shaping it into an enabling environment for sustainable development, reinventing an international cooperation for development which is inclusive and is aligned with the 2030 Agenda. The G20 is well placed to build consensus and strengthen international cooperation for development and Global Public Goods provision. Peer learning, knowledge sharing and capacity building are promising ways for the G20 to support sustainable development at global and national levels on a large variety of issues.
2. Quality Infrastructure and Connectivity are crucial issues for sustainable development. The G20 can make a valuable contribution by developing a common understanding and possible guidelines or standards on these multi-dimensional topics.
3. Human Capital Investment is a central concern for preparing people to the future of work and achieving more inclusive development. At such, it bears considerable potential for joint work across several G20 working groups and work streams.

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4. Better alignment of the whole G20 work to the 2030 Agenda and enhanced collaboration among work streams and with other stakeholders seems indispensable to make valuable, non-redundant contributions to Quality Infrastructure and Connectivity, Human Capital Investment and Financing for Sustainable Development.
5. There is a pressing need to increase the resources available for the SDGs and shifting existing resources towards investment in sustainable development. The G20 has a major role to play in establishing an enabling global environment for FSD and shaping the incentives of financial actors, providing and leveraging official and private resources, and supporting developing countries' own efforts at domestic resource mobilisation.
6. G20 outreach, engagement and communication are critical challenges against the backdrop of the 2030 Agenda, which deserve a strengthened strategic approach. The G20 should institutionalise engagement with various stakeholders groups and improve its communication with citizens on the 2030 Agenda and G20 actions in support of it.

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I. Cross-cutting session: International Co-operation for Sustainable Development and Inclusive Globalisation

This session asked the question of how the G20 can help strengthening and rethinking international co-operation for sustainable development. After a presentation by José Antonio Alonso, Professor of Applied Economics at Complutense University (Madrid), participants broke into four groups to discuss four different questions (see boxes below). The key messages from this session include:

- The global landscape of international co-operation has changed and is changing.
- International co-operation needs to move beyond the focus on the transfer of financial resources to a focus on the transfer of solutions for sustainable development.
- The G20 can play an important role in reshaping the international co-operation paradigm and system so as to recognise new actors, new priorities and new modalities to address persistent development gaps.
- The G20 can build consensus for and lead the way to a new model of international co-operation by mainstreaming the SDGs across its work streams, by engaging non-G20 countries and non-state actors in participatory processes, by implementing existing commitments, and by innovating in the context of joint initiatives.
- The G20 can make crucial contributions to the international co-operation agenda in terms of the provision of a variety of global public goods and enablers for the SDGs, (e.g. infrastructure and connectivity, access to technology and innovation, promoting transparency and good governance) and of supporting development countries in their sustainable transition towards higher levels of development.

<p>Group 1</p> <p>Focus: New vision for international co-operation</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Look at the bigger picture of international co-operation and find a productive role for the G20 to play • G20 should clarify its evolving vision with a statement • G20 theory of change and roadmap to 2030 needed • G20 vision should guide action in all work streams 	<p>Group 2</p> <p>Focus: Joint initiatives in international co-operation</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Challenge of maximising impact of existing initiatives rather than of creating new ones • Reduce redundancy by mapping existing initiatives • Examine past commitments to decide on current validity
<p>Group 3</p> <p>Focus: Provision of global public goods</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G20 can focus on providing specific outcomes such as: connective infrastructure, global health, access to technology and innovation, good governance • G20 can give guidance on the most effective way to collaborate for sustainable development. 	<p>Group 4</p> <p>Focus: Connect with global partnerships and initiatives</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • No need to launch new initiatives every year • Partnering with existing initiatives is key to implement the 2030 Agenda

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II. Thematic session 1: Quality Infrastructure for Connectivity Enhancement

This session presented the issue of Quality Infrastructure for Connectivity Enhancement as a likely future priority for the G20 development agenda. After presentations by Naoyuki Yoshino, Dean of the Asian Development Bank Institute, by Maria Emilia Berazategui, C20 Sherpa, by Alexander Leipziger, World Bank Group, and by Raffaele Della Croce, OECD, participants broke into four groups to discuss two aspects (see boxes below). The key messages from this session include:

- Infrastructure is not a new issues on the G20 agenda and requires coordination as well as transparent collaboration processes on many levels (e.g. between G20 work streams, between sectors, between levels of government) to make a productive contribution.
- Focus on quality infrastructure advances the G20 sustainable development agenda as both concepts harmonise with each other.
- Quality Infrastructure is a multi-dimensional issue, which includes aspects such as open access, transparency, debt sustainability, gender, anti-corruption and social as well as environmental concerns, and requires careful balancing between its aspects to develop a common policy narrative and mutual understanding.
- Promoting Quality Infrastructure requires a common understanding, agreed standards and capacity building as well as knowledge sharing.
- Connectivity and inclusiveness of infrastructure is crucial to contribute to global prosperity and reduce inequality.

<p>Group 1</p> <p>Focus: Quality Infrastructure</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G20 can focus on specific infrastructure (e.g. urban-rural linkages, energy) • Need to find ways to make the private sector care about quality infrastructure • Shared challenge across all levels of development 	<p>Group 2</p> <p>Focus: Quality Infrastructure</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Quality also means sustainability, anti-corruption and transparency. • Need for formal processes of collaboration between G20 working group and more joint work • Simultaneous development across countries to avoid infrastructure islands
<p>Group 3</p> <p>Focus: Connectivity</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for stronger regulatory frameworks and capacity building in developing countries • Peer learning & technology sharing as ways forward • Infrastructure must be open, accessible, affordable, inclusive, fiscally sustainable and responsive to local needs 	<p>Group 4</p> <p>Focus: Connectivity</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Infrastructure is not neutral as it brings different benefits to different socio-economic groups • Capacity and disaggregated data are challenges • Local communities need to be included • Transparent trade policies for cross-border projects

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III. Thematic session 2: Human Capital Investment

This session invited participants to familiarise themselves with the issue of Human Capital Investment (HCI) as a likely future priority for the G20 development agenda. After presentations by Alexander Leipziger, World Bank Group, by Michael Ward, OECD, by Hiromichi Katayama, UNESCO, and by Georgina Sticco, Women 20, participants broke into four groups to discuss two aspects (see boxes below). The key messages from this session include:

- Human Capital Investment is an important and multi-faceted issue with great scope for joint work across multiple G20 working groups and work streams.
- The 2030 Agenda provides a framework for coordinating initiatives in different G20 working groups and work streams through systematic SDG proofing.
- Past and current G20 work on the future of work, on digital economy, on skills etc. can be complemented by an examination of development implications and used to engage non-G20 countries so as to better understand their needs regarding Human Capital Investment.
- Future work on Human Capital Investment must integrate a gender perspective and take into account the impact of other policies, such as health, social protection and youth policies.
- The G20 can add value by leading the agenda on measurement of Human Capital Investment's outcomes and the anticipation of future skills needs in order to empower government to design better policies.

<p>Group 1</p> <p>Focus: Support HCI and anticipate future needs</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • DWG can take the lead on coordination across the G20 on Human Capital Investment • Work on translating education into learning outcomes, measurement and highlighting the specific challenges of developing countries (e.g. informality) will add value 	<p>Group 2</p> <p>Focus: Support HCI and anticipate future needs</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Listen to countries and investigate their needs in an agreed framework for systematic outreach • Improve data availability and sharing to anticipate future needs, especially to support developing countries
<p>Group 3</p> <p>Focus: Priorities in HCI for the SDGs</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Agenda should be developed with SDGs in mind, not connected to them post hoc • Priorities must take into account national specificities • Health, gender and education are clear priority issues, taking into account informal education as well 	<p>Group 4</p> <p>Focus: Priorities in HCI for the SDGs</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Every G20 initiative on HCI should be examined for its links with the SDGs • Life skills become increasingly relevant work skills • Parenting is an underestimated challenge in HCI

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IV. Thematic session 3: Financing for Sustainable Development

This session examined the challenges with regards to Financing for Sustainable Development (FSD) and the role of the G20 in this field going forward. After presentations by Amar Bhattacharya, The Brookings Institution, by Thierry Soret, UNDP, and by Maria Laura Tinelli, Country Manager Argentina and Uruguay for the Global Steering Group on Impact Investment, participants broke into four groups to discuss two aspects (see boxes below). The key messages from this session include:

- There is a pressing need to increase the resources available for sustainable development and the G20 has a major role to play in providing and leveraging official and private resources in G20 countries, establishing an enabling global environment for FSD and supporting developing countries in their own efforts at domestic resource mobilisation.
- New actors, instruments and sources of finance made the global landscape more complex and fragmented but also engendered innovations (e.g. blended finance, impact investment).
- Countries at different levels of development face different challenges in their FSD: as they transition from higher reliance on ODA to greater domestic resource mobilisation, there can be significant gaps in-between those stages, which call for new forms of cooperation.
- Engagement with the private sector is crucial to close financing gaps, but governments cannot neglect improving their own public finances and tax administration simultaneously.
- Aligning economic and financial policies with overarching sustainable development objective, supporting domestic resource mobilisation, combatting illicit financial flows as well as base erosion and profit shifting, exploring innovative financing mechanisms (e.g. Impact Investment or blended finance), incentives for sustainable investment, mobilising private resources, and supporting innovation to facilitate access to finance and financial inclusion are all essential elements of the FSD agenda for the G20.

<p>Group 1</p> <p>Focus: Unlocking additional resources</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Develop a common understanding of challenges of and effective approaches to FSD • Business 20 as multiplier to involve the private sector • Figure out public domestic investments before turning to the private sector 	<p>Group 2</p> <p>Focus: Unlocking additional resources</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G20 can create the framework for national action to overcome governance challenges on FSD • Launch pilot projects to increase collaboration between G20 work streams • Create benchmarks for FSD based on G20 data
<p>Group 3</p> <p>Focus: Making sustainable use of available resource</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • G20 should work to align financial flows with the SDGs • Donors' priorities and recipients' needs can diverge • Quality of expenditure both in aid and investment is crucial to engender sustainable development • More joint work instead of mere coordination 	<p>Group 4</p> <p>Focus: Making sustainable use of available resource</p> <p>Some key take-aways:</p> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> • Need for a results framework on FSD and increased dialogue between the stakeholders • Incentives for private actors to contribute to FSD • Improve measurement, reporting and evaluation

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V. Cross-cutting session: Engaging other G20 work streams, Engagement Groups and Citizens – How to partner and communicate effectively in the framework of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda?

This cross-cutting session on 6 November 2018 examined the G20's approach to engagement and communication against the backdrop of the 2030 Agenda among G20 work streams, towards G20 Engagement Groups and towards citizens at large.

Bathylle Missika, OECD, shared five lessons regarding successful government communication on the SDGs with participants. Laura Hildebrandt, SDG Action Campaign, highlighted exciting opportunities for the G20 to support the global movement for the SDGs, including the Global Festival of Action for Sustainable Development in May 2019. Maria Emilia Berazategui, Civil 20, recalled the need for transparency in times when trust in public institutions is fading and the challenge of walking the talk. Augustin Batto, Youth 20, presented the [Social Innovation Warehouse](#), which links projects led by young agents of change, and invited participants to support and use this resource going forward.

In the ensuing discussion on relevant G20 goals for engagement and communication and corresponding actions, the following key messages emerged:

- Many G20 Engagement Groups struggle to provide a continuous framework of exchange due to lacking funding.
- In order to make the most of G20 Engagement Groups, G20 working groups should involve them early as well as openly (i.e. not just for very limited speaking slots) and should share their agendas and priorities so that speakers can prepare accordingly.
- G20 Engagement Groups can help G20 working group to take transversal topics such as transparency, gender and youth into account.
- The UN High Level Political Forum is an annual opportunity for the G20 to engage with outsiders on its sustainable development agenda.
- G20 communication to the outside world could benefit from a strengthened strategic approach.
- G20 Engagement Groups can become important partners for the implementation of past commitments, if they are willing to engage in this regard.
- G20 communication faces three challenges: How does the G20 want to communicate? Can it partner with G20 Engagement Groups to have ambassadors in non-state actor communities? Who is the G20's audience?