



G7/G20 ADVOCACY ALLIANCE (U.S.)

March 2019

G20 Policy Paper

2019 G20 Summit Recommendations: Osaka, Japan



When G20 leaders meet on June 28-29 in Osaka, Japan to discuss pressing global issues, it is imperative that they take action to address the needs of people living in the world's poorest and most vulnerable countries. This paper contains the recommendations of the **G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance (U.S.)**, a group of more than 40 U.S.-based nongovernmental organizations. They call for the United States to play a leading role in encouraging the G20 to take the following actions:

Anti-Corruption

Lead: Shruti Shah, President & CEO, Coalition for Integrity
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Almost ten years after the first G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group, G20 leaders must demonstrate serious efforts to address the debilitating effects of corruption on their citizens and those of the rest of the world. It will be important for the G20 Presidency to focus on implementation of past commitments. Specifically, the G20 should:

1. **Effectively enforce the [OECD Anti-Bribery Convention](#).**
 - a. All G20 countries should become parties to the OECD Convention in 2019, participate in the peer review process, and take concrete steps to strengthen implementation and enforcement of their foreign bribery laws.
 - b. The Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) should make publicly available information about the number of referrals on foreign bribery cases provided to and received from other countries.
2. **Enhance beneficial ownership transparency and reduce conflicts of interest.**
 - a. Report to the ACWG by the end of 2019 on actions taken to implement the [G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency](#) and provide a timeline for full implementation.
 - b. Require companies that bid for public contracts to publish beneficial ownership information in order to identify potential conflicts of interest.
3. **Improve integrity, transparency, and accountability in public procurement.**
 - a. Focusing on the infrastructure sector, all G20 countries should report on implementation of the [G20 Principles for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement](#) in that sector.
 - b. Support independent civil society monitoring of large-scale infrastructure projects through Integrity Pacts and other similar vehicles that help ensure governments are delivering on

commitments to improve transparency, integrity, and accountability in public procurement.

Education

Lead: Mark Engman, Managing Director, Public Policy & Advocacy, UNICEF USA
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We ask the United States to play a leading role at the G20 to reinforce education, child protection and empowerment, with a focus on girls.

1. **Ensure that the G20 commits to realizing safe, equitable, quality education inclusive of all children and youth, including those affected by conflicts and crises, with a focus on girls.**
 - a. Reinforce last year's G20 declaration that "Access to education is a human right and a strategic public policy area for the development of more inclusive, prosperous, and peaceful societies."
 - b. Building on the G20 ECD Initiative, recognize that child development and school readiness depend on health care, nutrition, and nurturing care in the earliest years, including pre-school.
 - c. Encourage corporations and governments to introduce and invest in family-friendly policies, including parental leave, to promote child development and school readiness.
 - d. Recognize safe and inclusive quality education as a lifesaving intervention that must be prioritized in the first phase of any humanitarian response.
 - e. Commit G7 countries to increase ODA funding for education, both for bilateral and global initiatives, including the Global Partnership for Education and Education Cannot Wait.
 - f. Increase accountability by supporting projects that measure and achieve learning outcomes, including the developmental status of children from 0-60 months.
 - g. Recognize and promote technical and vocational skills building to help youth successfully transition to meaningful employment.
 - h. Build on the Buenos Aires commitment to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls with regard to access and learning in schools by ensuring child protection is integrated into education systems, including putting in place policies to prevent and respond to gender-based violence in and on routes to schools and to address child marriage.

Food Security and Nutrition

Lead: Daisy Francis, Advocacy Strategy and Technical Advisor, World Vision U.S.
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Since the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals in 2015, G20 countries have reaffirmed their commitment to achieving SDG 2 (Zero Hunger) at successive G20 meetings. Additionally, the G20 have committed to the development of food systems that are environmentally sustainable and which support quality and diverse diets, built on three objectives to: *increase responsible investments in food systems; increase incomes and quality employment in food systems; and increase productivity sustainably to expand [the] food supply.*¹ In view of these commitments, we call on the U.S. Government to support efforts, at the upcoming G20 in Japan, to:

1. Accelerate collective action on **addressing global hunger**, as at the current pace, countries will fall well behind the Goal of ending hunger by 2030.
2. Support programs that ensure access to sufficient amounts of nutritious and culturally appropriate food, under existing **nutrition-focused initiatives**, as well as at the 2020 Nutrition for Growth Summit, to meet the needs of food insecure communities, recognizing that *“improved food security and nutrition requires inclusive growth and employment, especially for women and youth and social protection mechanisms.”*²
3. Provide time-bound, measurable indices for **progress on initiatives** that the G20 has adopted, signaling increasingly more specific commitments to Food Security and Nutrition, beginning with the 2014 Brisbane G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework, the 2015 Implementation Plan of the Food Security and Nutrition Framework, and the 2015 G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems.

Gender

Lead: Lyric Thompson, Director, Policy & Advocacy, International Center for Research on Women (lythompson@icrw.org)

On the second anniversary of the We-Fi (Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative), and building on the new Women’s Global Development and Prosperity (W-GDP) initiative, the U.S. should work with G20 countries to advance new commitments – and accountability on past commitments – on women’s economic empowerment.

1. Reduce unpaid care burdens through a signature initiative investing 2% of GDP in the care economy³ and increase investment in quality education and training, land tenure security, financial

services, and market access for women entrepreneurs. Investments must be tailored to reach rural women and be published in a public accountability report documenting progress on this and all G20 commitments on gender equality and women's economic empowerment.

2. Launch a Leaders' Initiative on Women's Workforce Development that:
 - a. Facilitates workforce development for women and young people for skilled and higher-paying jobs in low- and middle-income countries to help build foundational and transferable life skills, and facilitate women's opportunities to build an asset base;
 - b. Facilitates apprenticeships, internships, and mentorships; and
 - c. Promotes market access and secure land and property rights for women entrepreneurs.
3. Building on the W-GDP Initiative's commitment to strengthening the enabling environment for women's economic empowerment, the U.S. should work with G20 countries to ensure:
 - a. Equal protection of/access to land, and secure property and inheritance rights, including through educating girls and communities on land rights;
 - b. Schools and workplaces are free from sexual harassment and gender-based violence; and
 - c. The repeal or amendment of gender-discriminatory laws and policies⁴.

Health

Lead: Danielle Heiberg, Senior Manager, Policy and Advocacy, Global Health Council
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To fulfill G20 commitments, including *Shaping an interconnected world* (2017), G20 countries must:

1. Embrace the global commitment to Universal Health Coverage (UHC) by:
 - a. Recognizing Primary Healthcare (PHC) as the means to achieve UHC and supporting partner countries in the implementation of gender-responsive and child-friendly PHC. Heads of State should commit to attending the UN High-Level Meeting on UHC in September 2019 and support the High-Level Meeting communique or declaration.
 - b. Delivering on commitments at the UN High-Level Meeting on Tuberculosis, including treating 40 million people by 2022, and closing the \$1.3 billion R&D funding gap for TB, and the UN High-Level Meeting on Noncommunicable Diseases (NCDs), including ensuring the provision of health services for the prevention, screening, and control of NCDs.
 - c. Recognizing nutrition as key to health and development and committing to reconvene in Japan in 2020 for the Nutrition for Growth Summit in order to demonstrate renewed

leadership on nutrition as essential to the successful delivery of UHC, by making new financial and policy pledges to tackle global malnutrition.

- d. Committing to robust public funding for R&D of new health technologies, which are sorely needed to bring the goal of UHC within reach.

Sustainable Infrastructure

Lead: Linda Krueger, Senior Policy Advisor, The Nature Conservancy (lkruieger@tnc.org)

The G20 Japan Presidency has appropriately chosen a focus on “Quality Infrastructure” for this year’s summit agenda. The G20 must clarify the importance of sustainability and equality as a component of quality and should require the upstream policy and institutional foundation to deliver on sustainable and inclusive infrastructure.

1. **G20 countries should establish coherent, open, and transparent infrastructure investment plans for both private and public procurement, integrating sustainable development objectives, and be fully consistent with other sustainability strategies and policies, such as the Paris Agreement and related decarbonization strategies, and biodiversity commitments.** This requires a whole-of-government approach with integrated and coherent strategies for action. These plans should include spatial planning at a strategic scale to identify and resolve potential points of conflict between development and critical natural capital.
2. The G20 should work with MDBs and other stakeholders to **reach an agreement on a common definition of sustainable infrastructure.**⁵
3. G20 countries should work with regional, and national development banks to **create global sustainable project preparation and guarantee facilities that are managed at the country level.** The regional and multilateral development finance institutions would provide technical assistance to enable countries to conduct cross-sectoral and large-scale infrastructure planning.

BACKGROUND

ANTI-CORRUPTION

Twenty years after entry into force of the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention, the perceived level of corruption in G20 countries has not diminished significantly.⁶ At the same time, few G20 members actively enforce domestic anti-bribery laws.⁷ A number of large economies, such as China, Indonesia, and India, have not yet ratified the Convention.

In some cases, the lack of enforcement stems from weak judicial systems; in others, there is a lack of political will. Still other cases fail because prosecutors are unable to identify the ultimate bribe payer or bribe recipient. The inability to identify the ultimate bribe payer or bribe recipient defeats all enforcement efforts and allows corrupt actors to continue with impunity. The G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 2019-2021, which provides a framework to tackle inter-connected elements of the fight against corruption, is one of many international efforts to promote such transparency. Continued focus on this issue is key to slowing the use of anonymous entities to hide illicit payments and funds and improving the ability to enforce anti-bribery laws. It will also make it easier to detect conflicts of interest among government officials.

There are a number of G20 principles (i.e. open data, beneficial ownership transparency, integrity in public procurement, asset declarations, whistleblowing) that have limited or no plans for implementation from G20 countries. Meanwhile, new issues get discussed each year, with even more principles or studies or assessments being conducted, but with little focus on tangible action to implement them domestically.

Recent scandals such as Odebrecht involving major construction companies and public procurement have swept through dozens of countries, including some G20 members.⁸ Addressing corruption in public procurement in this sector, including in State Owned Enterprises (SOEs), through the use of open data and sharing of information among government agencies, would be a significant step to increasing citizen welfare.

EDUCATION

As G20 host, Japan intends to focus on economic growth and reduction of disparities, and promoting a “human-centered future society.” In outlining Japan’s vision for the 2019 G20, Prime Minister Shinzo Abe mentioned discussions on “global commons for realizing global growth.”⁹

Any discussion of “global commons” is incomplete without including access to safe, equitable, inclusive, quality education from early years through adolescence, as the foundation for building stable nations and growing economies.

More than 260 million children and youth are out of school.¹⁰ At least 75 million children and youth in crisis-affected countries face challenges to their education. Most refugee adolescents will never get a secondary education. Girls are almost two and a half times more likely to be out of primary school than boys in conflict-affected countries, and 90% more likely to be out of secondary school than their counterparts in countries not affected by conflict.¹¹

Gender norms, combined with inadequate systems of child protection and lack of access to health services, compound gender inequality in education. For example, 12 million girls are married before 18 each year, almost always hurting their participation in education.¹² Education provides a protection against child marriage: in Sub-Saharan Africa, 66% of girls with no education become child brides, versus 13% of those with secondary or higher education.¹³

Quality of education is too often inadequate: an estimated 60% of children worldwide do not have minimum proficiency levels in reading and mathematics.

The depth of the learning crisis provides the greatest global challenge to preparing children, especially girls, for life, work, and citizenship in the 21st century, and creates an insurmountable barrier to women’s economic empowerment globally.

FOOD SECURITY AND NUTRITION

Since the 2014 Brisbane Summit, G20 members have focused on the importance of Food Security and Nutrition (FSN), as critical elements for improved development outcomes. Following the adoption of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) in 2015, successive meetings of the G20’s Development Working Group have committed to working to realize the SDGs’ vision of leaving no one behind. Central to this vision is ensuring a world free of hunger, one where adequate nutrition is seen as a prerequisite for human development.

According to the 2017 *State of the Food Security and Nutrition in the World* report, evidence confirms that lower levels of per capita food consumption in some countries, and increased inequality in the ability to access food in the populations of other countries, have contributed to “a further increase in the percentage of people in the world having insufficient dietary energy consumption in 2017” (i.e. experiencing under nutrition). The higher costs for nutritious food, the stress of living with food insecurity,

and the physiological adaption necessitated by food restrictions lead to additional adverse impacts on the lives of those who are food insecure.

As the 2017 Hamburg Update on the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda noted, “responsible investment in agriculture....with a particular focus on smallholders, family and small-scale producers” is key to sustainable development and growth in the agricultural sector.¹⁴ Moreover, to support increased procurement from smallholder rural producers, especially women and youth, it is critical that they have fair and equitable access, across the agricultural value chain, to finance and markets.

Short of these steps, and a renewed push to address the challenges, the global community is not on track to eradicating hunger and malnutrition by 2030.

GENDER

The U.S. has taken a leadership role at the G20 in promoting women’s economic empowerment (WEE) through the establishment of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), and bilaterally, through commitments to promote women workers and entrepreneurs, and foster an enabling environment for WEE. As such, there is ample room to address gendered challenges women face as economic actors. Girls’ secondary educational enrollment and completion rates remain lower, women’s labor force participation rates lag, and women struggle to access good-paying jobs and land rights. Unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and girls, as does gender-based violence. At home and abroad, this limits engagement in market activities, reduces productivity, and leads to concentration in low-paid or part-time, more insecure, informal, and home-based work. Working to eradicate violence, address discriminatory laws and norms, address the burden of unpaid care, and invest in women’s workforce development will remove some of the most persistent barriers to women’s economic empowerment and gender equality worldwide.

HEALTH

In September 2019, the UN will hold the High-Level Meeting (HLM) on UHC to drive action to achieve UHC by 2030. The G20 has an important role to play to ensure the success of the HLM by supporting Primary Health Care (PHC) as the pathway to UHC and supporting implementation of PHC that focuses on health promotion and prevention, reflects a life-course approach, and ensures essential health services for underserved populations.

Tuberculosis (TB) is the world’s leading infectious killer and a major driver of the global antimicrobial resistance challenge. In 2017, 10 million people contracted the disease, resulting in 1.6 million deaths. Of

these, 558,000 people died from drug-resistant TB.¹⁵ If global efforts to tackle TB continue at the current rate of progress, from 2015-2030, 28 million people will die, at an economic cost of \$983 billion.¹⁶ At the 2018 HLM on TB, UN member states committed to mobilizing sufficient and sustainable financing for TB research to increase overall global investments to \$2 billion to close the \$1.3 billion gap in funding annually.

Noncommunicable diseases (NCDs) are the leading cause of death. Globally, 41 million people die annually from NCDs. Approximately 85% of these deaths occur in low- and middle-income countries.¹⁷ Over the next 15 years, economic losses from NCDs are projected to reach \$47 trillion,¹⁸ further hampering workforce productivity, education outcomes, and progress toward global poverty eradication. NCD-related objectives should be integrated into existing health programs and platforms to increase access to sustainable and cost-effective interventions.

Undernutrition contributes to 45% of child deaths.¹⁹ Overweight and obesity are growing problems in high-income countries and in countries with high rates of undernutrition, creating a double burden of malnutrition. The first 1,000 days between a woman's pregnancy and her child's second birthday offer an important window of opportunity for preventing undernutrition and its consequences. Using evidence-based interventions, nutrition services during this critical period include iron and folic acid supplementation, dietary and breastfeeding counselling, and in some cases, treatment of severe acute malnutrition. These interventions save lives, improve nutrition outcomes, and help prevent chronic diseases later in life. Incorporating national nutrition plans into UHC plans, and by extension building nutrition into national health delivery systems, is essential to both successfully ending malnutrition and achieving UHC.

Furthermore, UHC will not be realized without R&D of new tools to combat endemic and emerging health threats. New tools and technologies are critical to address challenges of drug resistance, outdated and toxic treatments, and difficulty administering current technologies in poor, remote, and unstable settings.

SUSTAINABLE INFRASTRUCTURE

Infrastructure has been central to the G20 agenda due to its role in promoting economic growth and development. Recent G20 efforts have focused on mobilizing infrastructure financing.²⁰ Equal attention is required to ensure the quality of infrastructure investments given their large economic, social, and environmental impacts. In addition to locking in GHG emission patterns for decades, infrastructure can degrade natural lands, drive deforestation (thus accentuating climate change), cause displacement, place greater demands on water resources, and contribute to the deterioration of ecosystem services. Managing these impacts while scaling up investments is the central challenge of infrastructure investments.

The social impacts of poorly planned infrastructure projects also threaten sustainable development. Some infrastructure projects have an adverse impact by not providing access and benefit sharing and can displace people. Losses in ecosystem services can threaten livelihoods and trigger social conflict. The Inter-American Development Bank found that degradation of ecosystems tied to local livelihoods was responsible for 72 percent of all cases of social conflict around infrastructure projects. Not only is social inclusiveness paramount as a pillar of the SDGs, but infrastructure projects that are not inclusive can be very costly. The same IDB study of 200 social conflict-affected infrastructure projects found that 198 of them were eventually closed (36) or faced significant delays (162).²¹

Development Finance Institutions (DFIs) are essential to steer private sector financing into infrastructure. However, DFIs deploy a wide variety of environment and social criteria in their infrastructure investment planning, with some attempting to calibrate their project selection and design toward social and environmental outcomes and others deferring such frameworks to host country systems. Recent work has shown that the lack of common goals and approaches makes it difficult for investors to evaluate projects for sustainability and risk.

To tackle these challenges, sound policy and institutional frameworks and platforms for project preparation are essential. A robust policy and institutional framework enables increased infrastructure investment and ensures high quality projects. Platforms for participatory project preparation contribute to scaling up the delivery of sustainable and inclusive infrastructure through providing bankable and sustainable projects.

Endorsing Organizations

Anti-Corruption

Coalition for Financial Integrity
The Hunger Project

Education

Basic Education Coalition
Food for the Hungry
Global Campaign for Education – U.S.
Global Communities
International Rescue Committee
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
UNICEF USA
World Vision U.S.

Food Security and Nutrition

1,000 Days
CARE USA
Food for the Hungry
Global Communities
International Rescue Committee
Oxfam America
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
World Vision U.S.

Gender

Center for Democratic Education
Global Communities
International Center for Research on Women
International Rescue Committee
Oxfam America
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
World Vision U.S.

Health

1,000 Days
ACTION
Food for the Hungry
Global Health Council
Global Health Technologies Coalition
International Rescue Committee
IntraHealth International
PATH
Save the Children
The Hunger Project
UNICEF USA
World Vision U.S.

Sustainable Infrastructure

Oxfam America
The Hunger Project
The Nature Conservancy

ABOUT INTERACTION

InterAction is a convener, thought leader, and voice for nearly 200 NGOs working to eliminate extreme poverty, strengthen human rights and citizen participation, safeguard a sustainable planet, promote peace, and ensure dignity for all people.

¹ G20. (2014). G20 Brisbane Food Security and Nutrition Framework.

http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2014/g20_food_security_nutrition_framework.pdf.

² G20. (2015). G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems. <https://www.mofa.go.jp/files/000111212.pdf>.

³ For example, agriculture, nutrition, health, child and elder care, social infrastructure, etc.

⁴ This includes those limiting women's and girls' legal and civic status, their ability to obtain credit or register businesses, or limiting women's mobility or workforce participation, as well as those that serve as barriers to girls' access to education, including those that allow child marriage, permit discriminatory school admissions criteria, such as excluding pregnant girls or already married girls, and those that restrict girls' freedom of movement.

⁵ Work has been done to develop a common framework for sustainable infrastructure, including for a definition and attributes. See, for example, Inter-American Development Bank. (2018). "What Is Sustainable Infrastructure?: A Framework to Guide Sustainability Across the Project Cycle." <https://publications.iadb.org/en/what-sustainable-infrastructure-framework-guide-sustainability-across-project-cycle>.

⁶ Transparency International. (2018). "Corruption Perception Index 2018." <https://www.transparency.org/cpi2018>.

⁷ Transparency International. (2018). "Exporting Corruption – Progress Report 2018: Assessing Enforcement of the OECD Convention on Combatting Foreign Bribery." https://www.transparency.org/whatwedo/publication/exporting_corruption_2018; OECD. (2014).

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⁸ Faiola, Anthony. "The corruption scandal started in Brazil. Now it's wreaking havoc in Peru." Washington Post. January 23, 2018.

https://www.washingtonpost.com/world/the_americas/the-corruption-scandal-started-in-brazil-now-its-wreaking-havoc-in-peru/2018/01/23/0f9bc4ca-fad2-11e7-9b5d-bbf0da31214d_story.html?utm_term=.cbafa7b427bb.

⁹ G20. "Message by Prime Minister Shinzo Abe." <https://g20.org/en/summit/message/>.

¹⁰ UNESCO. (2016). "Global Education Monitoring Report 2016, Education for People and Planet: Creating Sustainable Futures for All." <http://unesdoc.unesco.org/images/0024/002457/245752e.pdf>.

¹¹ Global Partnership for Education. (2018). "Key Education Data." <https://www.globalpartnership.org/download/file/fid/64580>.

¹² UNICEF. (2018). "Child marriage." <https://data.unicef.org/topic/child-protection/child-marriage/>.

¹³ UNFPA. (2012). "Marrying Too Young: End Child Marriage." <https://www.unfpa.org/sites/default/files/pub-pdf/MarryingTooYoung.pdf>.

¹⁴ 2017. Germany G20. "Hamburg Update: Taking Forward the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development." <https://www.consilium.europa.eu/media/23548/2017-g20-hamburg-upade-en.pdf>.

¹⁵ World Health Organization. "Tuberculosis." https://www.who.int/gho/tb/tb_text/en/.

¹⁶ Global TB Caucus. "Parliamentarians warn of economic toll of TB." November 13, 2017. <https://www.globaltbcaucus.org/single-post/2017/11/14/Global-parliamentarians-warn-of-%E2%80%9Cdreadful%E2%80%9D-economic-toll-of-tuberculosis>.

¹⁷ WHO. "Noncommunicable diseases." June 1, 2018. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/noncommunicable-diseases>.

¹⁸ World Economic Forum and Harvard School of Public Health. (2011). "The Global Economic Burden of Non-communicable Diseases." http://www3.weforum.org/docs/WEF_Harvard_HE_GlobalEconomicBurdenNonCommunicableDiseases_2011.pdf.

¹⁹ WHO. "Malnutrition: Key facts." February 16, 2018. <https://www.who.int/news-room/fact-sheets/detail/malnutrition>.

²⁰ OECD. (2018). "Roadmap to Developing Infrastructure as an Asset Class."

http://www.oecd.org/g20/roadmap_to_infrastructure_as_an_asset_class_argentina_presidency_1_0.pdf.

²¹ Watkins, Graham, Sven-Uwe Mueller, Hendrik Meller, María Cecilia Ramirez, Tomás Serebrisky, and Andreas Georgoulas. (2017).

"Four Decades of Infrastructure Related Conflicts in Latin America and the Caribbean." Inter-American Development Bank. <https://publications.iadb.org/en/lessons-four-decades-infrastructure-project-related-conflicts-latin-america-and-caribbean>.