

Proposal for two parallel sessions on implementation of the 2030 Agenda at the T20 summit 2018 in Buenos Aires

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The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development is an ambitious and innovative design for human prosperity in the 21st century. While implementing it can be truly transformative for the world, countries can lose focus given the breadth of topics that the Agenda touches upon in its 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). The Agenda also holds overarching principles such as universality – meaning that it is valid for all countries – and leaving no one behind – meaning that improvements shall benefit the poorest segments of society. The G20 has committed to the 2030 Agenda at the summits in 2016 and 2017; all its members adopted it individually at the United Nations in 2015.

To fulfil this commitment to the Agenda, the G20 must go beyond the sectorial choices of particular SDG policies and focus on: i) promoting the notion of global development, meaning that both national and global policies are required, ii) incorporating the principle of ‘leaving no one behind’ and iii) keeping coherence between the social, economic and environmental dimensions of development. Therefore, the G20 must encourage a sound implementation of the Agenda among its members. The lead for this process in terms of encouraging and reporting is with the Development Working Group (DWG). In doing so, the DWG should ensure close coordination with other work streams in order to honor the principle of universality of the Agenda and in order to achieve coherence between G20 action and the 2030 Agenda. It is particularly important that the financing of the 2030 Agenda, as well as the coherence of financial market regulation discussed at the G20, become central themes for the G20.

In 2018 the G20 has the opportunity to streamline its commitment to the 2030 Agenda into its processes and practices with concrete actions. First, the G20 should task the Development Working Group with creating a common template to report on the SDGs that could replace other reporting formats within the G20. Here, the G20 has an opportunity to innovate in ways that ensure that all G20 actions refer to the 2030 Agenda as an overarching framework and thus more stringently support the general follow-up and review of SDG implementation by the G20. Second, the Developing Working Group should promote collective reporting of the G20 countries and, third, it should encourage evaluation of policies and learning among countries.

Session title: National implementation of the 2030 Agenda in the G20

Duration of the session: 50 minutes

Structure of the session: First, Imme Scholz will set the scene for the session by explaining why the G20 is crucial for implementing the 2030 Agenda, and the opportunities for engaging in joint reporting, learning and evaluation, among states (across the G20) and within states (including state and non-state actors) (5 minutes). Second, representatives from China, France, India, Japan and Mexico will speak about the implementation process in their respective countries, based on specific questions asked by the moderator. The questions will be about planning, monitoring, reporting and learning modalities and experiences and the importance of including non-state actors (participation), first with regard to national implementation and then with regard to using the G20 as a learning platform as suggested above (see policy brief by the Task Force: https://t20argentina.org/wp-content/uploads/2018/06/TF6-6.3-T20-national-implementation-of-2030-Agenda-Policy-Brief_final-2.pdf). Third, we will do our best to have time for interaction with the audience, for comments, questions and answers.

Invited panelists:

Sébastien Treyer, director, Institut du développement durable et des relations internationales (IDDRI), France

Nobuko Kayashima, President of JICA Research Institute (and appointed by T20 co-chairs 2019 as responsible for 2030 Agenda in the T20), Japan

Amilabh Kant, CEO, NITI Aayog, India

Chen Dongxiao, President, Shanghai Institutes of International Studies (SIIS), China

Rebecka Villanueva Ulfgard, lecturer, Instituto Mora, Mexico

Moderator: Imme Scholz, DIE, Germany