2018 G20 Summit Recommendations
G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance (U.S.)
Buenos Aires, Argentina

When the G20 leaders meet in November 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 54 non-governmental organizations.

Anti-Corruption

Lead: Shruti Shah, Coalition for Integrity (sshah@coalitionforintegrity.org)
1. **Effectively enforce the OECD Anti-Bribery Convention** (the Convention).
   a. All G20 countries should take steps to implement the recommendations made in the Convention phase 3 peer review and report on their progress to the Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) by the end of 2018.
   b. In early 2019, the 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.**
   a. Report to the ACWG by the end of 2018 on actions taken to implement the **G20 High-Level Principles on Beneficial Ownership Transparency** and provide a timeline for full implementation.
   b. All G20 countries should make it possible to link beneficial ownership information with information provided in financial declarations to facilitate identification of conflicts of interest.
3. **Improve integrity, transparency, and accountability in public procurement.**
   a. Focusing on the construction sector, all G20 countries should report on implementation of the **G20 Principles for Promoting Integrity in Public Procurement** in that sector, including by State-Owned Enterprises and through the use of open data.
   b. Develop a mechanism for government agencies to share information about corrupt bidders.

Early Childhood Development

Lead: Mark Engman, UNICEF USA (MEngman@unicefusa.org)
1. As part of their commitment to equitable education and development, G20 leaders should **make a clear statement in their Summit Communique to focus on early childhood development (ECD)**, to maximize optimal brain and social development in all children as a significant foundation for sustainable development.
2. Declare a “G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Investment” to ensure progress in areas critical to the best start in life for children¹, including:
   a. Investing in and expanding access to ECD services;
   b. Implementing family-friendly ECD policies for government and the private sector;
   c. Collecting data on essential indicators of ECD;
   d. Providing dedicated leadership for ECD, and coordinate efforts more effectively across sectors; and
   e. Help to increase demand for high quality ECD services.

Food Security and Nutrition
Lead: Eric Muñoz, Oxfam America (Eric.Munoz@Oxfam.org)
1. Fulfill the agreement made by Agriculture Ministers during the German G20 Presidency to provide a stocktaking of G20 actions since 2011 to implement sustainable solutions to address agriculture and food security.
   a. Comprehensively document commitments and actions undertaken since 2011.
   b. Provide lessons learned and recommendations to guide future action by G20 members to contribute to the Sustainable Development Goals and in coordination with multilateral partners including the Committee on World Food Security, The World Food Program, IFAD, and the FAO.
2. Commit to a robust initiative on Healthy Soils to Meet Global Demand based on principles that address the critical role soils play in increasing agriculture productivity for food security.
   a. Support technical bodies in strengthening the evidence base regarding soil quality on arable lands, particularly on lands where smallholder production predominates.
3. Reaffirm commitments to benefit vulnerable populations, including small-scale producers, women, and children, by improving nutrition outcomes and integrating gender in G20 agriculture actions.
   a. Increase policy, technical and financial support to existing efforts, including the Scaling Up Nutrition Movement, the Comprehensive Africa Agriculture Development Program, and the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program.

Gender Equality
Lead: Lyric Thompson, International Center for Research on Women (ltthompson@icrw.org)
The Argentinian G20 Presidency has identified empowering women as essential to its key theme, and has committed to mainstreaming gender throughout the entire G20 agenda.² Building on past commitments and last year’s launch of the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative (We-Fi), we call on the U.S. Government to play a leading role in encouraging the G20 to take the following actions, at home and abroad through its development assistance:
1. Achieve the target to reduce the gender gap in labor force participation by 25% by 2025³ by investing 2% of GDP in the care economy (agriculture, nutrition, health, child and elder care, social infrastructure, etc.) and increasing investment in quality education and training, land tenure security, financial services, and market access for female entrepreneurs. Ensure these investments reach women and girls in rural areas, and that all women workers – including migrants – are guaranteed decent work and living wages. Publish an accountability report of how countries are progressing in reaching this target.
2. Launch a Leaders’ Initiative on Women’s Workforce Development: The U.S. should champion a leaders’ initiative to eliminate barriers to female labor force participation by facilitating workforce development for women and young people for skilled and higher-paying jobs in low- and middle-income countries to help build foundational, transferable, and life skills; facilitate apprenticeships, internships and mentorships; and promote market access for female entrepreneurs.
3. **Ensure** schools and workplaces **are free of sexual harassment and gender-based violence (GBV)** by supporting a comprehensive and integrated ILO Convention and Recommendation on ‘Ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work,’ investing in efforts to reduce GBV directed at girls, and promoting girls’ access to safe, quality education in all settings, including rural areas, in conflict and crisis.

**Global Health**

Lead: Danielle Heiberg, Global Health Council (dheiberg@globalhealth.org)

To fulfill G20 commitments including the *Ise-Shima Vision for Global Health* and the $10 billion resource mobilization commitment in the *Muskoka Initiative*, G20 countries must:

1. **Fight the rise of antimicrobial resistance (AMR), including drug resistant TB (DR-TB).**
   a. Finance and support implementation of AMR National Action Plans and surveillance in G20 and developing countries.
   b. Ensure a One Health approach to antibiotic use.
   c. Building on the commitments made in the 2017 G20 Berlin Declaration, continue to support the new AMR R&D collaboration hub including its development of new financing mechanisms and keeping R&D around AMR on the top of the scientific agenda.
   d. Prioritize DR-TB within G20 efforts, as it is the leading cause of AMR-related deaths, including demonstrating strong political commitment for the UN High-Level Meeting on TB.

2. **Strengthen public health preparedness by aligning the priorities of G20 countries to continue supporting the Global Health Security Agenda.**
   a. Cost, implement, and finance Joint External Evaluations and associated National Action Plan for Health Security to enable countries to prevent and contain outbreaks through surveillance, early detection and rapid response to biological threats through a One Health and health system strengthening approach, especially in highly-vulnerable countries, as well as through cross-sectoral engagement to minimize risk and progression of infectious disease epidemics.
   b. Increase research and development funding for vaccines, drugs, diagnostics and other medical tools for new and emerging infectious disease threats.

3. **Commit to mobilize financing from multiple sources to achieve the “Working for Health” Five-Year Action Plan for Health Employment and Inclusive Economic Growth.**
   a. Foster investment aligned with the Workforce 2030 Strategy to accelerate progress on gender equality and inclusive growth.

**Responsible Business Conduct**

Lead: Daisy Francis, World Vision US (dfrancis@worldvision.org)

In keeping with the theme of ‘building consensus for fair and sustainable development’, with an emphasis on gender mainstreaming and women’s empowerment, as key to achieving sustainable growth, we call on G20 leaders to:

1. **Ensure that when looking at inclusive and equitable growth that:**
   a. The needs and rights of the bottom third of the global population are integrated into all growth strategies.
   b. Economic development plans prioritize women- and youth-led small and medium sized enterprises and include adequate resources for capacity-strengthening to meet and operationalize global responsible business conduct standards, especially to prevent, detect, monitor, and eliminate exploitative labor, particularly child labor, in their supply chains.
   c. The goal of truly inclusive growth, which brings communities into the development stream, means all investment strategies need to address their impact on the communities in which business is conducted.
2. Recognize that a focus on jobs of the future should not come at the expense of 'jobs of the past' where traditionally women/girls/children are overwhelmingly represented, in sectors such as agriculture and manufacturing (especially clothing, textiles and shoes). G20 members agreed, via Agenda 2030, to leave no one behind, meaning that:
   a. Investments in traditional areas of work are still needed for those who will remain far removed from the benefits of shifts to either a knowledge-based or technology-led jobs economy.
   b. In some sectors, rather than streamlining efforts, labor-intensive investments will be needed, to ensure broader and meaningful engagement of vast numbers of unemployed people.
   c. Safeguards are required to promote full and productive adult employment and decent working conditions, per the ILO standards.

**Sustainability: Climate, Energy, and Infrastructure**

*Lead:* Jesse Young, Oxfam America ([Jesse.Young@Oxfam.org](mailto:Jesse.Young@Oxfam.org))

1. **Reaffirm support for the Paris Agreement and its implementation by:**
   a. Affirming the G20’s 2017 language that “the Paris Agreement is irreversible” and supporting the goals of the 2017 [G20 Hamburg Climate and Energy Action Plan](https://www.g20.org/de/2017/g20汉堡气候和能源行动计划);
   b. Prioritizing energy financing for pro-poor clean investments (including efficiency and on- and off-grid renewables) in national and regional infrastructure master plans;
   c. Setting a timeline for the full and equitable phase-out of fossil fuel subsidies by 2025, including those for export and development credit agencies, while ensuring protection for the poor. This should include expanding the peer review process on subsidy reform.

2. **Urge international financial institutions to adopt climate-friendly policies by:**
   a. Welcoming the World Bank’s decision to stop financing upstream oil and gas projects beyond 2019, and urging all other multilateral development banks (MDBs) to do the same;
   b. Calling for swift implementation of the 2017 MDB commitment to promote the mainstreaming of climate action throughout the development finance community.

3. **Promote sustainable infrastructure investment by:**
   a. Balancing sustainability and the protection of natural resources with the need to expand access and affordability of services.
   b. Establishing clear expectations that infrastructure siting, fuel source decisions, and identification of beneficiaries be guided by upstream, system-scale geospatial planning that minimizes cumulative environmental and social impacts;
   c. Ensuring that international and national financial regulations and mechanisms (e.g., public works or PPPs) are aligned with transparency and sustainability, and that investment rules protect the state’s “right to regulate” in the public interest.
BACKGROUND

Anti-Corruption

Twenty years after entry into force of the Convention, the perceived level of corruption in G20 countries has not diminished significantly. At the same time, few G20 members actively enforce domestic anti-bribery laws. Several 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 other cases, there is a lack of political will. Still other cases fail because prosecutors are not able 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 absence of transparency on beneficial ownership of legal entities allows corrupt actors to continue with impunity. The 2017-2018 Anti-Corruption Action Plan 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.

Recent scandals such as Odebrecht involving major construction companies and public procurement have swept through dozens of countries, including some G20 members. 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. The G20 ACWG will focus on SOEs for the first time and it is important that any G20 High-level Principles on SOEs reflect previous standards such as the OECD’s Guidelines for state-owners of SOEs.

Early Childhood Development

Early childhood (birth to age three) is the most unique and distinct phase of life, that lays the foundation for not only human development, but also of societies and sustainable development. During this period, children’s brains can form upwards of 1,000 to almost a million neural connections every second. These connections are the foundation of later learning and earning, health and well-being.

It is estimated that 43 percent (or 250 million) children under 5 years of age in low- and middle-income countries are not achieving their developmental potential, due to lacking essential ingredients for optimal early development. They do not have nutritious food; they miss out on health care; they are not protected from violence, extreme stress, pollution, and conflict; and they are starved of the stimulation that comes from interacting with a caring adult. Children with disabilities are especially at risk.

ECD interventions bolster child development, help children build resilience, and prepare them to succeed in learning. Studies show that children involved in pre-primary programs are more likely to start school on time, stay in school longer, and succeed in their studies. ECD has been documented to be one of the most cost-effective strategies for poverty alleviation. High quality ECD programs for disadvantaged young children have demonstrated a return of 13% per year. A study on increasing pre-school enrolment in 73 countries found higher future wages of $6 – $17 per dollar invested, indicating potential long-term benefits ranging from $11 to $34 billion. Quality integrated ECD programs have the potential to boost individual adult earning by almost 25 percent. Further ECD investments are affordable: on average interventions cost $0.50 per capita per year, building on existing service delivery programs.

Despite the benefits for children and nations, there is insufficient investment in early childhood interventions. That prevents children from maximizing their chances in life; and prevents societies from building its human capital to strengthen societies and economies.
Food Security and Nutrition

The G20 has served as an important international forum at which countries have committed significant political and technical resources to tackle hunger and malnutrition. Given the reversal in hunger trends which are now increasing for the first time in more than a decade, the concerted efforts of G20 members is needed to catalyze action to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals.

At the 2015 G20, Agriculture Ministers agreed to a stocktaking effort to review commitments and actions undertaken since 2011. This review should be completed under the Argentine Presidency in order to document actions taken and identify progress and opportunities to further harness the collective action of G20 members.

The Argentine government has indicated an interest to center further action on the objective of promoting healthy soils to meet global demands. Globally, soil degradation is recognized as a major challenge facing agricultural producers, especially smallholder producers, but a dearth of evidence exists regarding the full scope of the problem as well as localized information that can be used for informed decision-making. Substantial opportunity exists for G20 members to contribute to the evidence base and augment capacity at the national level.

Gender Equality

“Building consensus for fair and sustainable development” — the theme of this year’s G20 — requires active engagement with women and girls, and commitments to policies that will advance gender equality. Women and girls are key economic actors, but social vulnerabilities embedded in unfavorable norms and practices constantly undermine their potential. Therefore, G20 countries must make the investments that will be required to level the playing field for them. Investing in women and girls can provide the greatest return for development, supporting greater individual and collective well-being, delaying age at marriage and first birth, increasing incomes, reducing hunger, malnutrition, poverty and improving stability and security.

However, secondary educational enrollment and completion rates for girls remain markedly less than boys in some regions of the world, female labor force participation rates often lag behind and women worldwide struggle to access good-paying jobs. Furthermore, the responsibility of unpaid care work falls disproportionately on women and girls — particularly those in rural areas. 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.

Moreover, 12 of the G20 countries are among the top 20 migrant destinations where women make up a significant proportion of migrants, many of whom end up working in the care and health sectors, often in informal employment and without access to social protection and labor rights. The consistent application of SDGs 5 and 8 linked to existing labor protections could address care deficits and protect the rights of care workers, while guaranteeing effective implementation of ILO Convention 189 on decent work for domestic workers.

Finally, gender-based violence continues to be a pervasive expression of gender inequality worldwide. Working to eradicate violence, address the social norms that condone and protect aggressors, and uncovering habituation to the status quo can provide the basis for lasting transformation. Addressing violence in schools, universities, and the workplace will prove fundamental to removing one of the most persistent and pernicious barriers to women’s economic empowerment and gender equality worldwide. Support for the ILO standard on “Ending violence and harassment against women and men in the world of work,” as well as SDGs 5 and 16, will be critical to achieving this.
Global Health

By investing in global health, the United States, in partnership with G20 leaders and member states, has been successful in slowing the spread of HIV/AIDS and other infectious diseases, reducing maternal and child deaths, preventing malnutrition, and improving responses to health emergencies and disasters. These investments increase access to quality health services provided by health workers with the right skills and supplies in the right places, leading not to just healthier communities, but greater economic and social stability.

Strong health systems and infrastructure are core components in building capacity to prevent, detect, and respond to emerging infectious disease outbreaks and bioterrorism—including the growing threat from antimicrobial resistance (AMR). As recognized in the Berlin Declaration of the G20 Health Ministers, there is a need to scale up investment in AMR research and innovation for new tools and approaches to fight drug resistance and explore incentive mechanisms that could strengthen the R&D pipeline for new treatments.

In October 2017, partner countries to the Global Health Security Agenda (GHSA) reaffirmed their commitment to this initiative. Continual support of the GHSA furthers countries’ capacity for research, surveillance, and response efforts that prevent a global pandemic.

WHO and World Bank estimate at least half the world’s population cannot obtain essential health services—a central reason being lack of access to trained and supported health workers, particularly in lower-middle-income countries. Investing in health has proven to yield a 9:1 return, holding potential to catalyze inclusive economic growth with a particularly striking impact for women, who constitute 70% of the health workforce (compared with 40% across all employment sectors). Coupled with an opportunity to provide skilled jobs to a growing youth population, financing and implementing health workforce strategies is critical to addressing the high burden of every disease/issue addressed in SDG3, where health workforces and systems are weakest.

Responsible Business Conduct

The Government of Argentina’s 2018 G20 agenda, under the framework of “leaving no one behind,” offers a broad lens for examining and strengthening current and past commitments on Responsible Business Conduct.

Investing in Inclusive and Equitable Growth

There is growing recognition that the current disparity, between those who make up the upper third of economies and those who occupy the bottom third, is neither sustainable nor conducive to any global economic growth agenda. Strategic investments are needed to rebalance this system and promote stable environments that enable participation from every strata and segment of society. Additionally, an intentional process is required to ensure the inclusion of those traditionally not factored into global growth plans, as well as an infusion of resources that look to build and/or strengthen the capacity of new participants in national and global growth schemes.

Preparing for Jobs of the Future

While focusing on identifying what constitutes the ‘jobs of the future,’ it is important that G20 member states not lose sight of what constitutes the ‘jobs of the past,’ where most of the labor is done by women and children (agricultural work; factory and other low-paying industries, especially in supply chain and service industries; etc.), and where the danger of exploitative labor is high. The future economy will likely need both types of work and so it is imperative that safeguards are in place to ensure just and humane
working conditions; fair remuneration for work done; and equitable investments from governments in both forms of labor.

The technological revolution – or increasing investment preferences for technology jobs – may create even greater gender inequity and the potential for hidden work that exploits unskilled/lesser skilled labor. Consequently, the shift towards technological solutions needs to be accompanied by parallel investments in labor-intensive employment schemes. Otherwise, the savings from technological solutions will come at the expense of the poor at their points of entry into the labor force.

This also means the G20 should commit to promoting full and productive adult employment and decent work as advanced by the ILO, as well as working to realize Target 8.7 of the Sustainable Development Goals, where governments committed to eradicate child labor in all its forms by 2025, a priority reaffirmed in November 2017 at the ILO Conference in Buenos Aires.

Sustainability: Climate, Energy, and Infrastructure

The Paris Agreement includes a process by which countries can affirm or update their national climate pledges by 2020. This moment could provide an opportunity to raise the overall strength of both developed and developing countries’ efforts to transition to low-carbon economies.

Yet, G20 member support for overseas coal finance has risen in recent years. This trend is simply unacceptable, given both the urgent need to reduce global emissions and the profound health impacts of coal-fired energy. In addition, the G20 sees gas as a longer-term rather than a transitional solution to a sustainable future. This must also change. According to the IEA, global subsidies for fossil fuels outpace subsidies for renewables by nearly $100 billion annually.

Similarly, multilateral development banks leverage considerable financing in infrastructure in developing countries. When their financing policies change, it sends a powerful signal to private capital markets. They too must be part of the movement to phase out fossil fuel subsidies.

Infrastructure has been part of G20 the agenda almost since its inception. The G20 has viewed fostering investment in infrastructure as key to economic growth and development, but has largely ignored social and environmental risks of poorly-planned infrastructure investments. Today, the Argentine Infrastructure and Energy Transitions Working Groups must remedy this. The Sustainable Finance Study Group (formerly the Green Finance Study Group) should also help ministers ensure that G20 growth strategies are compatible with a just transition to meeting or exceeding the sustainable development and climate goals of the world community.
While the statement is not designed to be a consensus position of the contributors, it has been endorsed by InterAction’s leadership. Each set of recommendations was developed by a policy team of the G7/G20 Advocacy Alliance. Those policy teams, along with endorsing organizations, are listed below by issue. This Policy Paper will be available on the InterAction website: www.InterAction.org.

**Anti-Corruption**
Coalition for Integrity, Shruti Shah (Lead)
Global Financial Integrity, Tom Cardamone
Global Integrity, Alan Hudson
Global Witness, Stefanie Ostfeld
Endorsers:
Center for Democratic Education
Oxfam America

**Early Childhood Development**
UNICEF USA, Mark Engman (Lead)
American Academy of Pediatrics, Aaron Emmel
Global Campaign for Education – U.S., Jennifer Rigg and Jessie Diamond
RESULTS, Aaron Merchen
Endorsers:
Global Citizen
World Vision US

**Food Security and Nutrition**
Oxfam America, Eric Muñoz (Lead)
1,000 Days, Danielle Porfido and Kim Cernak
Bread for the World, Jordan Teague
Endorsers:
Center for Democratic Education
Global Citizen
Save the Children US
World Vision US

**Gender Equality**
International Center for Research on Women, Lyric Thompson (Lead) and Spogmay Ahmed
Bread for the World, Faustine Wabwire
The Hunger Project, Mary Kate Costello
IntraHealth International, Sam Rick
Mercy Corps, Emily Schaefer
ONE Campaign, Megan O’Donnell
Save the Children US, Grace Choi
Women Thrive Alliance, Emily Bove and Mónica Hancke

**Endorsers:**
Center for Democratic Education
Global Citizen

**Global Health**
Global Health Council, Danielle Heiberg (Lead)
Global Health Technology Coalition, Jamie Bay Nishi
IntraHealth International, Vince Blaser and Arush Lal
Management Sciences for Health, Ashley Arabasadi
TB Alliance, Erin Morton
UN Foundation, Samantha Chivers
Endorsers:
Center for Democratic Education
Global Citizen
World Vision US

**Responsible Business Conduct**
World Vision US, Daisy Francis (Lead)
Solidarity Center, Molly McCoy
Trade Union Sustainable Development Unit, Robert Lovelace
UNICEF USA, Mark Engman
Endorsers:
Center for Democratic Education

**Sustainability: Climate, Energy, and Infrastructure**
Oxfam America, Jesse Young (Lead) and Sasanka Thilakasiri
Bank Information Center, Jolie Schwarz
CARE, Tonya Rawe
Heinrich Boell Foundation, Nancy Alexander
The Nature Conservancy, Linda Krueger and John Verdieck
Union of Concerned Scientists, Alden Meyer
World Resources Institute, David Waskow
Endorsers:
Center for Democratic Education
End Notes

1 UNICEF recommends six ECD priorities for governments and partners: (1) Investing urgently in services that give young children, especially the most deprived, the best start in life; (2) Expanding access to effective and essential early childhood development services in homes, school, communities, and clinics; (3) Making family-friendly early childhood development policies a national priority – and a private sector imperative; (4) Collecting data on essential indicators of early childhood development and track progress in reaching the most deprived; (5) Providing dedicated leadership for ECD programmes and coordinate efforts more effectively across sectors; and (6) Driving demand for high quality early childhood development services. See UNICEF. (2017). *Early Moments Matter for every child.* Page 75. [https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_Early_Moments_Matter_for_Every_Child.pdf](https://www.unicef.org/publications/files/UNICEF_Early_Moments_Matter_for_Every_Child.pdf).


4 The Global Health Security Agenda was launched in 2014 and is a partnership of nations, international organizations, and non-government actors to promote global health security.

5 The five-year action plan was adopted at the 70th World Health Assembly and supports Member States to effectively implement the recommendations of the *High Level Commission on Health Employment and Economic Growth.*


11 For example, see Ethiopia example in *Early Moments Matter,* p. 45.


15 Particularly sub-Saharan Africa and South Asia.


