Y20 Summit 2020 Communiqué

We, the Delegates of the Youth 20 (Y20), convened for the first-ever virtual Y20 Summit on 15-17 October 2020 under Saudi Arabia's G20 Presidency.

Our meeting comes at a time of extraordinary uncertainty for the global economy, which is still deeply impacted by the ongoing COVID-19 pandemic and its intertwined health, social, and economic consequences.

Recent reports from the International Labor Organization (ILO) and the Organization for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD) show the disproportionate negative impact that the pandemic is imparting on youth's future economic prosperity. Furthermore, the pandemic is exacerbating many of the challenges young people were already facing before COVID-19 in the context of a rapidly changing world of work.

In 2020, we are addressing these challenges by recommending policies to the G20 in three overarching priority areas: **Future Fit**; **Youth Empowerment**; and **Global Citizenship**.

Despite these challenges, we stand resolute on the belief that young people are catalysts to a more sustainable and inclusive world. They are the future torchbearers of the planet and, as such, they need to be empowered today.

For this reason, we call on G20 Leaders to embolden their commitment to youth, by delivering on the recommendations stated hereinafter.

Following our discussions on how to best prepare to keep up with and overtake the challenges of the future, we call on G20 Leaders to take action across three dimensions:

A.   Future of Work

The world of work is undergoing profound transformations, with implications ranging from the structure of labor markets to the task composition of jobs and the forms of employment. We ask G20 Leaders to:

Ensuring access to opportunities and promoting an inclusive workforce
- Encourage international organizations to carry out labor market research to incorporate high- and low-skilled migrants, refugees, and asylum seekers into welfare and education systems to support labor market entry.
- Ensure that Free Trade Agreements include clauses which greatly strengthen existing protections on workers' rights and international mobility.
- Address the labor disruption from automation by creating apprenticeship pathways from primary education to employment and matching displaced workers with growing green and digital occupations.
- Boost rural economic development and geographic equity through cross-border sustainable digital infrastructure to facilitate labor mobility and skills transfer across borders.
- Promote education, workplace inclusion and career advancement of women, starting from scholarships to leadership positions, as well as flexible work arrangements that ensure equal division of caretaking roles between women and men.

Enhancing labor policies and social protection
- Reform labor policies to improve universal welfare programs including universal basic income, increased minimum wage, unemployment income support, affordable access to healthcare, unemployment insurance and a targeted pension system.
- Prioritize the social welfare, financial wellbeing and safety of youth gig economy workers.
- Implement revenue-based taxation and income-distributive criteria. The increased funds should help ensure a broader access to social protection, education and profession-centric training of youth, including those of underrepresented groups.
- Consider new, innovative assessments of taxation including taxation of digital services and income-distributive criteria to adequately cover a changing economy and ensure the proceeds of these taxation models can promote broader access to social protection, education, and profession-centric training of underrepresented groups including the work of women and youth.
- Prioritize mental health within physical and remote work environments including the assessment and readjustment of workloads and the right to disconnect.

Promoting equitable access to technology
- Encourage the inclusive design and ethical implementation of new technologies (i.e. AI and robotics).
- Protect youth from digital bias and discrimination and promote informed and mindful use of technology, including measures on data protection, privacy and the need to detect and challenge the spread of fake news and other types of misinformation.
- Promote public and private investments in digital connectivity and infrastructure in order to ensure equitable access to digital technology across geographical, socioeconomic, gender and ethnic divides.
- Follow up with the UN Secretary-General's Roadmap for Digital Cooperation and initiate an inclusive global multi-stakeholder discussion on the establishment of a universal legal framework on global digital governance.

B.   Future Skills

Reforming educational frameworks for upskilling the young workforce
- Invest in revising educational curricula to incorporate critical skills necessary for the evolving ecosystem of work, such as problem-solving, vocational and communication skills; entrepreneurial mindset; digital literacy; cultural competence; adaptive capacity – through an interdisciplinary consortium of leaders and educators.

- Increase investment in the continual training and incentivization of the educator workforce for them to remain up-to-date in evolving digital teaching platforms.

Creating a flexible, resilient feedback loop between education and employment
- Invest in wider access to online skill development and professional certification courses, updated to align with evolving market forces and projected jobs regardless of socio-economic backgrounds and seniority.
- Mandate companies and public administration to create internal skills development and shadowing programs that enable employees to seize future opportunities within their workplace and provide structured competency training with a focus on labor rights.
- Provide incentives for companies to invest in paid work-integrated learning, allowing young workforces to pursue external projects and internships to gain employment skills.
- Encourage the private sector to acknowledge non-traditional experiences that recognize different forms of civic engagement and volunteering for a more holistic evaluation criteria for job applications.

Harnessing the power of mentorship to cultivate skills, networks and experiences
- Encourage the development of institutionalized, inclusive and gender-equitable opportunities for mentorship through a nationwide talent pool program, with a focus on environmental sustainability and STEM.
- Encourage investments in the creation of online career navigation and mentoring hubs, with a centralized repository for targeted career guidance services and vetted information on emerging sectors of work.

C. Entrepreneurship

Developing an entrepreneurial mindset through accessible resources
- Increase access to entrepreneurship training - including core business and legal administrative skills - in formal and non-formal education for young people, especially those from underrepresented groups.
- Reinforce cooperation between national and local governments to implement pro-local business policies and incentivize social entrepreneurship as well as promote sustainability and circular economy. These policies should aim to open opportunities for young entrepreneurs, especially in remote and rural areas.
- Promote shared spaces for collaborative entrepreneurial growth, such as incubators/accelerators and startup competitions to cultivate mentorship, normalize entrepreneurial risk-taking and provide sector-specific skills for young entrepreneurs.

Improving financial infrastructures for access to capital
- Review targeted financial regulations and aid policies, by easing restrictive financing criteria; scaling up microcredit schemes; providing government guarantees and investments; and allocating tax incentives.
- Prioritize public and private cooperation by preferentially building partnerships with the intention to open access to wider market opportunities and provide strategic investments to early-stage entrepreneurs.
- Agree on standardized indicators of financial inclusion and financial literacy and implement a concrete, quantifiable, and collective target on increasing these indicators over time in their respective countries.

In light of our discussions on how to become agile, dynamic leaders in a changing world, we call on G20 Leaders to take action across two dimensions:

A. Leadership Development

G20 Leaders need to support nurturing and developing leadership skills for the youth. We call on them to:

Preparing and enabling youth to lead
- Implement comprehensive and inclusive early interventions to equip youth with essential leadership skills, accessible civic education, and encouragement to participate. Monitoring and analysis should be provided to assess the effectiveness of this curriculum and enable sustainable growth.
- Consult students to co-create educational curricula to incorporate classes that prepare youth for the challenges of our changing world, with a focus on leadership development.
- Promote the strengthening of student and youth councils by providing them with meaningful engagement and participation opportunities within local, regional, national and international public, private and third sector institutions, as well as non-governmental and civil society stakeholders.
- Develop structured mentoring and peer-networking processes by increasing funding, developing programs, and facilitating the transition to virtual solutions to ensure all young people have access to strong and inclusive networks of support, guidance and inspiration to be the leaders of today and of the future.
- Increase funding mechanisms for young people, by developing financial support for youth initiatives, improving existing structures for welfare & education, and overcoming structural and financial barriers for youth.

Developing leadership through global and national experiences
- Support and develop structures of intergenerational co-leadership to generate synergies and open dialogue, facilitating knowledge transfer and collaboration between older and younger generations.
- Share best practices of meaningful youth inclusion to ensure that leadership opportunities and global progress are accessible to all young people.
- Foster exchanges, youth involvement in multilateral mechanisms, and other international experiences that aim to develop empathy, open-mindedness and a global perspective that can develop their skills as global leaders.
- Co-create with the Y20 a Youth Civic Engagement Program open to all youth worldwide to support civic-engagement initiatives that solve the most pressing issues in their communities, especially SDG accelerator initiatives, and include a yearly summit to collaborate with others around the world to upscale their efforts and increase outreach.

Fostering better environments to create new leaders[1,2]
- Ensure that youth from all backgrounds can be fully empowered by providing equal opportunities for development, safe environment, and protection from any kind of threat to their physical, psychological, social, and economic wellbeing. Institutionalize policies and legal mechanisms to end all forms of discrimination and barriers for youth, regardless of their differences in descent or ethnic origin, race, color, national or social origin, disability, health status, religion, language, political or other opinion, property, geographical residence, marital or family status, age, economic position, or expressions of gender and sexuality up to the country's norms and culture, and any other form of discrimination that may emerge hereafter.
- Recognize parity of mental and physical social well-being to foster resiliency, self-management, care and education, enabling youth's personal growth and dedication to lead.

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[1] The Y20 Turkish Delegation does not agree with the listing of the areas of discrimination, as this is a mere prioritization of kinds of discrimination. Details included in the Annex.

[2] The Y20 Saudi Delegation does not align with the detailed listing of discrimination forms and suggests a more generalized listing to ensure comprehensiveness.

B. Decision-Making Inclusion

G20 should embolden the role of youth in decision-making as young people are the catalysts of a fairer and more sustainable future:

Representation, participation and inclusion in decision-making bodies

- Promote direct, accessible and transparent two-way communication channels with youth, by:
  o Creating and improving permanent youth-led representation platforms that enable young people to voice their opinions and contribute to solutions throughout the decision-making process; and
  o Integrating the youth dimension into national development plans through evidence-based checks, participatory budgeting, quotas, mentorships, youth-led representation platforms, or youth representatives in political processes and institutions. We encourage leveraging technological solutions to facilitate this communication.
- Support the creation of youth shadow boards in private and third sector organizations where youth would shadow senior executives with the purpose of acquiring the skills and toolkit to develop as future leaders and decision makers.
- Commit to having youth-reserved seats in all decision-making bodies and boards in the public, private and third sectors to ensure meaningful inclusion of youth's perspectives and ideas. This inclusion should be monitored through relevant metrics and Key Performance Indicators (KPIs).
- Promote sociocultural change, moving from consultation to participation and empowerment, through political and institutional support for youth participation in formal political and organizational processes with the following measures:
  o The inclusion of youth impact statements to evaluate all policies;
  o The creation or continuous support of public bodies for youth and corresponding portfolios at the national, regional, and local government levels;
  o The appointment or continuous support for the position of an official government youth representative (to be within the age group of youth as defined by the respective national government) to strengthen the relationship between youth and government.
  o An increase in the number of spaces and partnerships for meaningful youth participation in multilateral processes and exchanges, ensuring the full rights of youth are respected.
  o The establishment of a public national hub to provide young people with equitable access to information, networking and mentorship opportunities.

Innovations for youth inclusion in decision-making

- Establish a Global Indicator for Youth Inclusion to achieve a clear set of targets for youth inclusion in decision making bodies by 2030 and to hold governments accountable for their commitments to increasing youth inclusion, representation and participation.
- Strengthen the connection between the Y20 and the G20, by encouraging exchanges between Y20 delegates and their G20 Sherpas to ensure that youth concerns are taken into account at the national level and by incorporating a youth impact evaluation for the policies developed at the G20 working meetings and leaders' declaration.
- Establish a permanent seat for Y20 at the G20 Sherpa Meetings, to ensure the voices and priorities of the youth are part of the conversation. This would strengthen the ties between the two groups and ensure civil society youth voices stand out.

Based on our discussions on how to become proactive, culturally sensitive problem solvers, we ask G20 Leaders for their action especially on two fronts:

A. Sustainable Development

We underscore the need to accelerate the implementation of the 17 Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the UN 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development, and call on G20 Leaders to:

2030 Agenda implementation and SDG reporting
- Supplement traditional measures of economic growth with environmental and well-being indicators, using metrics such as the OECD Better Life Index, Human Development Indicator, and the Genuine Progress Indicator (GPI), and commit to placing people's well-being at the center of any and all policy-making.
- Promote the prioritization of STEM in education, include sustainable development in schools' core curricula, and enhance science diplomacy.
- Accelerate SDG implementation, by using levers such as fiscal policy, enhancing synergies across SDGs, better integrating social and environmental externalities into economic policy-making, and ensuring that trade agreements are aligned with the Addis Ababa Action Agenda.
- Deliver on existing official development assistance targets (0.7% of GNI) by 2030, prioritizing the allocation of funds to the achievement of the 2030 Agenda and to youth initiatives.

Climate action[3]
- Deliver on Paris Climate Agreement commitments to limit global temperature increase to 1.5° C, particularly by:
    - Reducing GHG emissions, promoting and investing in green jobs, and creating an international carbon costing system;
    - Implementing ambitious 2020-2030 plans to transition away from fossil fuel-based technologies, including by implementing a sustainable transition towards green energy through increased support for energy efficiency programs and renewable energy technologies;
    - Accelerating the alignment of public development banks with the Paris Agreement, notably by ending fossil fuel subsidies by 2023; and
    - Addressing international legal protection gaps relating to climate refugees and ensuring protection of other vulnerable populations significantly affected by climate change.
- Protect the environment, with a better commitment to international environmental legislations, and engage in combating illegal global wildlife trade, to protect biodiversity and fight biopiracy.
- Accelerate the transition towards sustainable and resilient food systems, which includes regenerative and climate-smart practices, promotion of alternatives to meat consumption, and facilitation of access to land for young farmers.

Ensuring basic needs
- Support the global health infrastructure, through increasing development and humanitarian assistance.
- Increase investment in health assistance and humanitarian aid through multilateral humanitarian organizations and provide frontline workers with mental health and community care expertise.
- Formulate action plans for vulnerable contexts, especially in relation to the protection of women and girls facing disproportionate economic shocks, poverty, and gender-based violence.

Implement sustainable urban strategies
- Place sustainability at the heart of urban strategies, notably by:
    - Promoting and facilitating remote learning and working as well as delocalizing industries and campuses;
    - Empowering small-scale retailers;

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[3] The Y20 Turkish Delegation have expressed concern in including the Paris Agreement in the communique published by the Y20. Details included in the Annex.

- o Implementing a progressive system of subsidies for housing renovations, especially for youth and vulnerable populations, and replacing high energy consumption housing; and
- o Encouraging green self-generation energy systems in households through financial and fiscal incentives.

B. Multiculturalism

Embracing diversity is key to becoming truly global citizens; in this light, we call on G20 Leaders to take action to:

Discrimination and extremism
- Promote the elimination of all forms of discrimination against people, especially minorities, and foster social integration for young migrants, indigenous youths, and young persons with disabilities.
- Create a roadmap that allows for governments to address discrimination and extremism domestically and internationally in ways that allows for peace and reconciliation processes to move forward.
- Denounce policies that benefit systemic discrimination and embrace legislative processes that prevent prejudiced policymaking.
- Ensure peace and security through fair and accurate reporting of regional/communal disturbances and build physical or digital records/file systems for tracking cases.

Multilaterals promoting multiculturalism and respect
- Promote greater involvement of regional organizations and regional offices of major international organizations to allow for localized and context specific responses, especially in cases of emergency.

Global citizenship & (inter)cultural competency in education
- Develop minimum standards of education by ensuring the quality of teachers across all domestic educational systems, leaving no specific group behind, and increase support for global citizenship education.
- Use education as a tool for social cohesion and inclusion through ensuring interaction and interpretation of various narratives, experiences, and voices into curricula, and utilizing a human-rights based approach.
- Facilitate the creation of safe and inclusive social spaces to provide a sense of community for information sharing, organized legal advocacy, and accessible language courses tailored to ethnic/cultural minorities.

Promoting mobility in youth opportunities
- Strengthen education partnerships across different countries and encourage cross-cultural collaborative projects that allow for remote participation;
- Encourage funding for accessible education, internship, and diplomatic exchange programs for youth across the G20 member-states;
- Encourage accessible education, work and diplomatic exchange programs for youth across G20 countries through government funding, scholarships and facilitation of the visas for youth mobility.

Internet governance and media diversity
- Implement legislation that prevents highly concentrated media ownership and censorship and provide support to media groups operated by under-represented groups to ensure a diversity of voices.
- Develop international and national regulations to ensure a cyberspace free from hate speech, especially through regulations which eliminate misinformation, whilst maintaining freedom of expression and assembly.

Support for vulnerable groups[4,5]
- Ensure and protect the human rights of refugees, migrants, indigenous, endangered ethnic communities, and people's expressions of gender and sexual identity, providing assistance and the necessary funds to include them in society, and preserving their cultural heritage.

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[4] The Y20 Turkish Delegation does not agree with the listing of the areas of discrimination, as this is a mere prioritization of kinds of discrimination. Details included in the Annex.

[5] The Y20 Saudi Delegation does not align with the detailed listing of vulnerable groups and suggests a more generalized listing that is subject to society norms.

- Support social entrepreneurship of newcomers and small domestic multicultural advocacy organizations, with specific investments into projects led by marginalized groups.
- Enhance self-sufficiency and preserve linguistic heritage of indigenous and endangered ethnic communities.
- Promote diversity quotas of representation for decision making processes.

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This year marks the tenth anniversary of the establishment of the Y20 as the official G20 youth engagement group. We look forward to continuing to bring the perspective of young people from all around the world to the attention of G20 Leaders during the ten years to come.

While the ongoing COVID-19 crisis has exacerbated them, the challenges young people have been facing over the past ten years have consistently remained unchanged; yet, they have also remained largely unaddressed.

We were pleased that some G20 outcome documents this year made reference to young people and the challenges they face; however, we share a belief that young people should be more closely involved in the G20 process during any Presidency year, including by ensuring young people have a permanent seat at key G20 meetings.

This, we believe, would enable the G20 to adopt policies to help address the past, present, and future challenges of the youth.

We thank all who contributed to a successful Y20 process this year and look forward to meeting again under the Italian Presidency next year.

Y20 Summit 2020 Communiqué - Annex

A. Details of Footnote 2 & 5:
- The Y20 Turkish Delegation believe it is healthy and conscience to adopt a definition of discriminated and marginalized groups used by the United Nations Human Rights Council. We do not agree with the listing of the areas of discrimination, as this is a mere prioritization of kinds of discrimination. The International Human Rights legislation covers all forms of discrimination and therefore we have reserved the right to Disagree with this specific point. We are against all forms of discrimination and do not prioritize tackling some forms of discrimination over others.

B. Details of Footnote 3:
- The Y20 Turkish Delegation have expressed concern in including the Paris Agreement in the communique published by the Y20. Turkey is not a ratifying country of this Agreement and we as Turkish youth believe it causes a disadvantage for our country and thus the youth of Turkey. The Paris Agreement is not the only climate-related international agreement and therefore, while we appreciate the consensus of member-states to reduce their carbon footprint, we do not agree with the Paris Agreement being listed as the sole jurisdiction in this discussion area. Therefore, we reserve the right to Disagree in this specific sub-heading of the Y20 communique published by Saudi Arabia.