



*Press Release: 03-11-2020*

**Global Solutions Summit 2020 will not take place in current format –  
Global Solutions Initiative will offer participation in virtual sessions**

On account of the Coronavirus epidemic and the international reactions to it, the Global Solutions Summit needs to be reconceived. It cannot take place in its current format, scope and international on-site presence in Berlin on April 20-21. The same holds for the Summer School of the Young Global Changers, the initiative's scholarship program.

The event organizers are thus reacting to the travel bans amongst others from the current G20 Presidency Saudi Arabia to Germany as well as an entire travel ban by the upcoming G20 Presidency Italy, entry ban for speakers and participants for a rising number of high risk regions, major universities and companies prohibiting travels entirely as well as the recent recommendation by the German Federal Minister of Health Jens Spahn to cancel all events with more than 1,000 participants.

**New digital opportunities of collaboration**

The epidemic presents the Global Solutions Initiative not only with the challenge of providing a stepping stone to the T20 and G20 Summits 2020 under difficult circumstances, but also an opportunity. The opportunity is to reimagine the future of our G20 support in terms of a combination of digital and physical interactions, enabling a closer dialogue across the research, policy making, civil and business communities around the world.

For the present, the Global Solutions Summit will need to be primarily digital and interactive, crossing global boundaries virtually, possibly with the support of local gatherings in specified locations. In the future, the digital interactions should remain part of our global problem-solving process around our usual large-scale gathering in Berlin. In both present and future, we aim to cover the broad range of priorities defined by the T20 and G20, driven by a common sense of purpose, addressing well-defined sets of problems from a variety of perspectives.

Since the outbreak of the epidemic, the Global Solutions Initiative's team has been working with great inspiration and energy to plan a new format for the coming Summit. Furthermore, the initiative has been grateful to receive the advice from many in the Global Solutions community as well as official channels.

**Save the date for virtual sessions**

On April 20 and 21, virtual sessions will take place, aiming to enable the Global Solutions community to become more effective, insightful and collaborative. Information about the new format will be provided on a later date on the Global Solutions Initiative website: [www.global-solutions-initiative.org](http://www.global-solutions-initiative.org).

**About the Global Solutions Initiative**

The Global Solutions Initiative is a global collaborative enterprise that proposes policy responses to major global problems, addressed by the G20, the G7 and other global governance fora. The policy recommendations and strategic visions are generated through a disciplined research program by leading research organizations, elaborated in policy dialogues between researchers, policymakers, business leaders and civil society representatives. The Global Solutions Initiative supports the Think20 process for think tanks and is a stepping stone to the T20 and G20 Summits.

**Press Contact**

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