



Y20

ITALIA
2021

19th-23rd July 2021

COMMUNIQUÉ

Hosted by:



YAS

YOUNG
AMBASSADORS
SOCIETY



Introduction

We, the Y20, convened virtually from May to July 2021 to discuss how to achieve a world fit for future generations. Together, drawing upon extensive consultations with young people across the G20 countries, we identified systemic challenges that need to be addressed through bold policies and actions to respond to the immediate COVID-19 crisis and make the world more sustainable for current and future generations.

At our Y20 Summit that took place virtually from 19th to 23rd July 2021, under the G20 Italian Presidency, we discussed three main priorities: innovation, digitalisation and future of work; sustainability, energy and climate change; inclusion and equal opportunities.

We, and young people across the G20 countries, call on G20 leaders to involve us in decision making about our future, to assess the long-term impact of their decisions on future generations, to incorporate those assessments into policies, and to take immediate action on the recommendations in the communiqué, which focus on innovation, inclusion and sustainability, with education as the cross-cutting theme.

Cross-cutting proposal

Vaccine equity

Achieve global vaccine equity among G20 Nations alongside COVAX, with the aim of fully vaccinating 90% of the population of each G20 Nation by 2022, by redistributing excess vaccines to those in need, supporting the C20/W20/L20 joint statement demanding a TRIPS waiver to mitigate the Global North-South divide, transferring technology, and setting up production units especially for domestic production in the Global South.

Digitalization, Innovation, Future of Work

We, the Youth Representatives, believe that innovation, education and entrepreneurship should be tools to build a desirable future and a more inclusive and sustainable world. Prosperity can only be met by developing equal opportunities and social mobility thanks to a universal access to knowledge and lifelong learning and by ensuring lifelong social and health protection. The same concerns of fairness, safety, and freedom should be applied to the digital space, from education to regulations that promotes digital rights.

Digital Infrastructure

Achieve universal, equal, and safe access to quality digital infrastructure by 2030 in line with UN SDGs through:

- Fair and nonexclusive environments involving state investment, development banks, industry-relevant firms, and, where appropriate, public-private partnerships, to install, upgrade, and renew digital infrastructure;
- Alignment with the ITU estimates of \$428 billion required to connect the remaining 3 billion people to the internet; and
- Multilateral cooperation to prevent emerging technology monopolizations, such as satellite constellations for broadband access.

Digital Literacy and Competency

By 2025, create, develop, and implement formal and informal educational frameworks for young people and educators on digital skills, inclusive of topics related to:

- Computer science
- Algorithmic fairness
- Critical thinking and identification of misinformation in the digital space
- Digital rights.

This framework should be evaluated by periodic qualitative and quantitative assessments, equitable to the realities of each nation, and should emphasize intersectional access for underrepresented groups.

Workers' Protection

Develop national frameworks by 2030 to establish protections for vulnerable (caregiving, healthcare, domestic) and emerging sectors (remote and gig) to ensure social, legal, health and economic security to the fullest extent possible. Protection mechanisms should include:

- Expanding collective bargaining frameworks;
- Ensuring a maximum of 40 hours/week with considerations for purchasing power parity by matching wage increases with inflation rates nationally;
- Employer accountability for a fair and safe (tele) working environment;
- Ensuring the right to disconnect.

Developing Digital Rights and a Free, Open and Safe Digital Space

- Combat ICT-facilitated violence through an intersectional, multi-stakeholder approach in collaboration with youth;
- Develop community-based digital rights awareness schemes and responsive online protection and support systems to mitigate effects of online harm;
- Foster multilateral governance of digital affairs;
- Recognize data privacy as a human right; implement data protection from unauthorized use through privacy by design; acknowledge limitations of consent and information leakage through technical data; implement financial levies to tackle data breaches and digital dependency-exacerbating algorithms.

Upskilling, Reskilling and Lifelong Learning

Reaffirm G20 commitment to a 15% reduction in young people at risk of job displacement and exclusion from the labour market by 2025. Upskill young job seekers through close collaboration between educational institutions, public and private sector to: develop and provide targeted upskilling, reskilling, and lifelong learning programs, emphasising both hard and soft skills, with measurable results leading to opportunities and sustainable job placements while ensuring equal and affordable access to all groups.

Youth Innovation and Research Hubs for Entrepreneurship

Establish effective, equitable and accessible G20 Youth Innovation and Research Hubs by 2025, through a 10% increase in current innovation spending by all G20 countries in line with the 2016 Innovation Action Plan and with an emphasis on Open Science principles. Enable social entrepreneurship, foster youth employment and employability, and support MSMEs through partnerships with relevant stakeholders that provide access to training and development, funding and venture capital, best practice sharing, and networking.

Fostering Digital Health

- Establish an international human-centered digital health infrastructure and governance by 2025, through multilateral collaboration and knowledge and best practice sharing, that expands access to achieve universal healthcare coverage during and post COVID-19 recovery, including teleconsultations, AI/ML assisted diagnosis, access to medical equipment and software and digitally trained professionals and patients.
- Address mental health by leveraging technology, fostering social connectivity, and introducing relevant well-being metrics.

Developing a Digital Universal Credential Recognition

- By 2030, establish a mechanism for the assessment of credentials and qualifications to eradicate barriers to employment, specifically for vulnerable, rural, migrant, refugee, and historically underrepresented groups through transparency of skills and competencies.
- Increase access to recognized online learning bridge programs to ensure equality of credentials with respect for indigenous traditional knowledge practices.
- Designate research priorities for rural/remote communities and opportunities for youth transitions to the green economy by T20 engagement groups.

Inclusion and Equal Opportunities

Certain communities around the world experience disproportionate discrimination. We, the Y20, implore our leaders to address and ameliorate barriers to promote full inclusion and to reshape social structures to reallocate power more equally of young people and pay particular attention to underrepresented groups prioritized in the context of this Communiqué: women and other gender identities, people with disabilities (PwD), Indigenous peoples, refugees, racialized people, and other vulnerable populations,¹ for a shared future for all.

Health

Eradicate mental health stigma through public campaigns and ensure trauma-informed support is free and widely accessible, in particular for the youth by having mental health professionals at schools, moving towards a ratio of 1 team to 1000 students by 2025. Increase investment in healthcare and global health R&D to implement more medical facilities, doctors per capita and a better crisis response to every community (especially Indigenous and underrepresented communities) by 2030.

Access to Education

Guarantee that all youth have full digital and physical access to free and quality education by 2030 that (i) promotes gender equality and integration of underrepresented groups, particularly refugees and PwD, by providing dedicated grants and implementing individualized education programmes (ii) adapts culturally sensitive curricula to foster critical thinking, empowerment, and civic education and (iii) focuses on job accessibility by facilitating vocational training opportunities and continuous professionalization of educators.

Youth Access to Employment

Provide equal employment opportunities and decrease the NEET² rate to 10% by 2030, by (i) creating career departments in schools to proactively mentor youth on career opportunities, remove information asymmetries to meet labour market needs and address underrepresentation of vulnerable groups, especially women in STEM, PwD, and refugees, (ii) connecting youth with career opportunities that provide secure contracts and ensure equal and transparent pay structures, (iii) mandating employers to create inclusive and accessible workplaces free from discrimination.

1. Vulnerable populations may include people who are disadvantaged/discriminated due to poverty, sex, gender identity, sexual orientation, race, ethnic or social origin, genetic features, language, religion or belief, membership of a national minority, property, birth, disability, age, legal status, marital status and health conditions, or any other features.

2. NEET (Youth not in employment, education, or training). Share of young people who are not in employment, education, or training as a percentage of the total number of young people in the corresponding age group by gender.

Equality in the Labour Market

Promote the career advancement of underrepresented groups in decision-making and leadership roles in the public and private sectors by ensuring pay equality, implementing universal childcare, closing the gender pay gap by 2030, aligning parental leave duration, and providing quality social services and soft skills training required for leadership roles across all underrepresented sectors.

Basic Services

End homelessness, bridge the urban-rural and digital divides, and increase social mobility by 2030 by (i) guaranteeing regular and quality access to basic needs (clean water, clean air, sanitation, electricity, and broadband), (ii) implementing nationally-tailored strategies to create adequate, affordable, safe and sustainable housing and living structures (iii) creating fully accessible infrastructure for education, healthcare, and technology, (iv) implementing large-scale regulations of automated decision-making systems to prevent algorithmic discrimination.

Financial Inclusion

Implement country-adapted measures to foster financial empowerment through international cooperation to (i) achieve financial literacy for all by learning how to manage personal financial resources (including debt and budgeting) at school and via lifelong learning programmes, and (ii) grant access to tailored financial services (microfinance, fintech, conditional cash transfers) to ensure a safe and equal financial ecosystem for all, targeting in particular underrepresented people, to eradicate extreme and gendered poverty by 2030.

Youth Empowerment

Increase youth and underrepresented groups participation and engagement at all levels of leadership through (i) shared decision-making, achieved through statutory youth-quota in public administration, (ii) providing youth empowerment and leadership capacity building training, (iii) removing prohibitive work experience requirements, (iv) providing access to subsidies and stimulus, and acceleration programmes, (v) facilitating international exchanges, (vi) providing increased support to youth-led and youth-focused initiatives and organizations, (vii) ensuring effective youth representation and (viii) encouraging intergenerational knowledge transfer by 2025.

Human Rights, Civil Society and Social Cohesion

Dedicate 0.7% of GNI³ by 2030 to strengthen civil society, human rights frameworks, and inclusive culture by (i) enhancing social cohesion through investment in regional development and prioritization of initiatives that prevent violent extremism, (ii) strengthening civic spaces, youths' right to self-organize, and non-profit volunteering culture, (iii) promoting diversity, equity and equal rights for vulnerable groups domestically and internationally, (iv) promoting socio-economic integration of refugees by facilitating access to education and labour markets.

3. The benchmark of 0.7% of gross national income (GNI) being spent on Human Rights, Civil Society, and Social Cohesion is inspired by the [OECD target for official development aid \(ODA\)](#). An example of an allocation mechanism can be found in the [EU Cohesion Fund](#). The OECD ODA target remains unaffected by this proposal.

Sustainability, Climate and Energy

Under the current context of global disruption by COVID-19, we urge G20 leaders to uphold intergenerational justice and build back greener. As the generation most affected by the climate crisis, we stress the urgency of addressing the unfolding climate catastrophe to create a sustainable future and enhance people's wellbeing. Foregrounded by the SDGs, we present these recommendations under a sustainable, equitable, and inclusive recovery framework that champions young people's rights, needs, ideas, and aspirations.

Systemic Changes for Inclusive Climate Action

Uphold intergenerational and intersectional justice and drive systemic changes for inclusive climate action by:

- Normalizing the [Inclusive Wealth Index](#) as an alternative indicator to GDP, which values the health of the economy, society, and environment, highlighting co-benefits⁴ to incentivize climate action from all agencies, industries, and sectors;
- Centering youth, marginalized and vulnerable voices in decision-making processes at climate negotiations, ensuring at least 30% representation from these groups in domestic and multilateral consultations and delegations.

Just Energy Transition and Innovation

Immediately tackle the climate emergency, ensuring a just energy transition through:

- Limiting global temperature increase to [1.5°C](#) by committing to the [Net Zero Emission Scenario](#) by mid-century;
- Supporting community-based green energy and smart microgrid networks that provide socio-economic co-benefits, employment, and skills development for local young people;
- Investing in energy innovation⁵ to enable extractive economies to leapfrog carbon-intensive industrialization by phasing out fossil fuels;
- Addressing rural and urban areas' mobility needs with sustainable transportation.

Youth, Education and Green Jobs

Promptly empower present and future green leaders through new comprehensive educational policies and initiatives endorsing [Education for Sustainable Development](#) at all levels and generations through:

- Collaborating across public, private, non-profit, and youth institutions;
- Ensuring a holistic approach incorporating STEM, social studies, and humanities in education;
- Consulting local or vulnerable communities with project-based learning to increase climate awareness and action;
- Supporting the development of transferable skills needed to support job opportunities for the green transition.

4. By including social and natural aspects to national accounting in addition to economic development, government agencies will be incentivized to seek a healthier and more equitable society, better protected and preserved natural resources, all of which climate action can directly or indirectly address.

5. With emphasis on efficient and clean utilization of stranded energy assets, cost-efficient hydrogen production and use, electric mobility, digital technologies (e.g. blockchain), CCUS, grid flexibility, artificial intelligence, and digital collaboration.

Sustainable Taxonomy and Finance

Make global finance environmentally sustainable by:

- Introducing a unified internationally-binding green taxonomy⁶ to identify investments for environmentally-beneficial activities by 2026 and making climate risk disclosure compulsory for green investment recipients;
- Scaling-up green investment mechanisms, especially green bonds, to finance the green economy transition;
- Allocating green financial flows in the form of “youth green bonds” to finance youth-related environmental organizations, activities, needs, and job transitions;
- Affirming the [Common But Differentiated Responsibilities](#) approach to G20 climate financing.

Carbon-pricing Mechanism

Make emitting carbon costly and stimulate the green economy transition by:

- Significantly expanding domestic carbon tax and emissions trading schemes and implementing the carbon pricing pathway outlined by the [NGFS orderly climate scenario](#);
- Establishing an inclusive Carbon Border Adjustment Mechanism and alternative trans-boundary taxation schemes in carbon-heavy sectors;
- Promoting and facilitating the socially inclusive establishment of the carbon-pricing mechanisms globally;
- Redistributing such accrued revenues to subsidize youth-led sustainable development initiatives and green innovation.

Natural Environments and Biodiversity

Ensure resilient ecosystems and [outer space](#) environments that underpin human wellbeing through safeguarding measures, namely:

- Conserving at least 60% of biodiverse sites, including 30% of land and sea areas, through protected areas and [other area-based conservation strategies](#) by 2030;
- Establishing alliances with authorities to empower youth, local, and indigenous communities through Nature-based Solutions in development policies and green budgeting;
- Preventing the monopolization and unsustainable use of natural resources, while strengthening water management frameworks.⁷

Resilience, Preparedness and Adaptation

Champion climate justice and minimize inequalities by protecting vulnerable communities from climate change, including from migration and security risks, foregrounding the [UNDRR Sendai Framework](#) for disaster risk reduction by:

- Increasing adaptation finance to be level with mitigation finance by 2030;
- Strengthening local infrastructure and technologies for disaster preparedness, especially geospatial tools such as updated local hazard maps;
- Reevaluating land use for high-risk areas and supporting integration of innovations to minimize further environmental loss and damage.

6. On the basis of standards of the International Capital Market Association, Global Reporting Initiative, Climate Bonds Initiative, Climate Disclosure Project, Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures, EU Sustainable Finance Taxonomy, PBC Green Bond Endorsed Project Catalogue, and NDRC Green Industry Guiding Catalogue.

7. Ensure affordable, reliable, and safe WASH (Water, Sanitation, and Hygiene) services and tackle water pollution under WHO guidelines for drinking-water quality. Commit to share best practices and promote innovation and new technologies that foster sustainable, resilient, and integrated water management.

Circular Economy, Waste and Pollution

Decouple economic growth from environmental degradation and transition to a circular economy by:

- Incentivizing restorative, regenerative circular design and [RE100](#);
- Limiting externalities through transnational product stewardship;
- Reinjecting 30% more waste into the economy by 2050;⁸
- Phasing-out non-renewable materials where alternatives exist;
- Investing in community-based innovation and infrastructure to facilitate an inclusive and accessible global reuse market;
- Developing global binding agreements on underregulated pollution and waste, including plastic, food, textile, [space junk](#), fine dust, and e-waste.

8. This represents an additional 30% from national 2020 baseline rates while recognizing unbalanced capacities due to varying national development levels.



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