

Civil20 Brazil 2024 | General Recommendations for the 3rd G20 Sherpas Meeting

Rio de Janeiro, July 4th, 2024

The global civil society organizations and movements united at Civil20 (C20) express deep concern about the increasingly serious polycrisis that puts our very existence and the planet at risk. While the G20 has long attempted to address economic crises, it has failed to effectively solve the economic systemic risks, and fostered unsustainable, extractive and exclusionary production and consumption models that have led us to existing inequalities, and climate emergencies. It failed to prevent and end wars – as Russia's war against Ukraine and the ongoing genocide in Palestine – and has failed to support countries when they need the most, as is the case in Haiti.

However, despite the escalating global challenges, including the increase of poverty, hunger, gender-based-violences and the shrinking of civic space, there are solutions. Therefore we require the G20 to urgently implement the following recommendations, which consider all groups and populations in vulnerable conditions and their intersections related to race, gender, sexual orientation, socioeconomic status, and geographical location, including but not limited to: children, youth and elderly; women; afro-descendants; quilombolas, indigenous and native people; LGBTQIA+ people; people living with HIV; persons with disabilities; autistic people; homeless; immigrants, refugees, and stateless.

1. **Uphold democracy, secularism and human-rights**, and implement robust accountability mechanisms for the G20 decisions, with the meaningful participation of civil society organizations, particularly through the Engagement Groups, and the protection of civic space.
2. **Promote fully funded evidence-based public policies** for all that are gender, age, anti-racist, disability and climate-responsive, ensuring full access to decent work, water, land, housing, food security, and universal education, health (including mental health), and social protection systems.
3. Replace the GDP per capita index by a new one that considers **social, economic and climate investments and risks for the definition of global policies**.
4. Urgently implement **just transition plans**, with fossil fuels divestment and more **ambitious climate mitigation and adaptation measures in line with a 1.5°C scenario**, act to prevent and reduce disaster risks, and to protect the rights of the people and territories in vulnerable conditions – especially in the Global South –, ensuring new, additional and flexible financing to effectively respond climate change, accessible and adapted to the needs of groups at the frontline of climate adaptation processes.
5. **Promote progressive and just global tax policies**: (i) tax the super-rich and reduce tax incentives for private sector and corporations that generate social, economic and environmental externalities; (ii) support the implementation of a CBDR-RC compliant taxation of major polluters' activities; (iii) strengthen **G20 and international cooperation instruments** and information exchanges to close tax havens, eliminate money laundering, and the loopholes that facilitate tax avoidance and evasion through fair, effective, transparent and inclusive international cooperation through the UN Model Taxation Convention.
6. **Reform the International Financial Institutions and Multilateral Development Banks** governance, structure and practices to (i) mainstream human rights, environmental obligations and the SDGs in economic decision-making within their mandates; (ii) increase the availability of concessional funding, such as Special Drawing Rights allocations and innovative financing instruments - avoiding de-risking measures against public interests; and (iii) democratize decision-making governance by guaranteeing equal voice and fair participation of the Global South and representative civil society.

7. **Reduce the debt burden and its costs**, particularly for low and middle-income countries, to address liquidity and solvency problems and free up resources to finance the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Climate Agenda, by a non-creditor led multilateral legal debt framework
8. **Eradicate poverty and hunger** by securing decent jobs, social security, universal access to health, education and food security with nutritious and safe diets, produced by agroecology, regenerative farming with cultural perspectives of communities that respects planetary boundaries; curbing food loss and waste, addressing the threats from urban expansion, and the expansion of ultra-processed food; reducing use of pesticides; tackling food monotony; investing in smallholder farmers, promoting land and water access and tenure security.
9. **Realign education to the human rights-based approach**, fully financing and guaranteeing integral, inclusive, quality lifelong public education from early childhood to higher education, valuing teachers and all education professionals, ensuring their working conditions and health; advancing open knowledge strategies, digital public goods and open education resources; and cultivating climate literacy, environmental education and nature-based learning.
10. Ensure public deliberation, transparency **accountability, enforcement over development and use of technology for decision-making and the digital public infrastructure**, fostering a human-rights-based ecosystem grounded in the rule of law and significant connection, checking corporate power and eliminating concentration in the digital economy and redressing power imbalances between countries, digital platforms and users, as well as bridging access gaps, promoting community-owned data, AI and platforms models, and guaranteeing data privacy and robust safeguards – especially for children and adolescents – while mitigating systemic risks of AI applications, and furthering democratic governance, regulation, independent oversight, social participation, and public assessments of social and environmental risk and human rights impact, prohibiting AI uses with potential harm for human rights
11. **Ensure parity representation of women in all their diversity in the governance of the multilateral and national economic, social and environmental institutions**, while guaranteeing interdisciplinary and gender-responsive foreign, economic and climate policies enhancing leadership and community resources, ensuring internal and external policies coherence and, particularly, recognizing indigenous women, as stewards of land and ecosystems;
12. Protect **workers' rights and safety, eradicate exploitation, and hold multinational corporations and the private sector accountable** for their labor practices and products, mandate disclosure of all suppliers and sub-suppliers to increase transparency and conduct publicly regular reports and independent audits of supply chains.
13. Accurately measure the **contribution of unpaid care work and reduce the disproportionate share carried by women and girls**, in all their diversity; redistribute care responsibilities equitably between women and men, families and the state; guaranteeing their access to education and decent work, including public and private credit portfolios for micro, small, and medium enterprises led by women and underrepresented groups.
14. Elevate public health's role in environmental health challenges and **strengthen health systems and pandemic prevention, preparedness and response** – while prioritizing the ongoing pandemics–, and take all measure to advance the alliance for regional production, innovation and access to medicines and vaccines to respond to neglected diseases and populations and socially determined diseases.
15. Guarantee the sexual rights and reproductive rights for all, with **accessible and affordable healthcare services**, particularly for women and girls in all their diversity and LGBTQIA+ people, and ensure access to evidence-based comprehensive sexuality education and family planning, contraception, abortion, STIs prevention, care and free treatments, including for HIV/AIDS.

16. Strengthen **access to justice** and guarantee accountability and redress for under-represented groups and those in vulnerable situations that are facing systemic injustices.
17. Enhance **legal security for civil society organizations and movements** – registration and operational freedom from repression or arbitrary legal threats – preventing restrictive legislations based on combating terrorism, and **protect the human and environmental rights defenders and journalists**.
18. **Reduce the military spending and weapons production**, prevent violence, increase funds for humanitarian aid and sustainable development in affected regions,. promote the peaceful resolution of conflicts and the compliance of International Law, support the **UNSG’s New Agenda for Peace** and UN Security Council’s reform, elevating the work of the Peacebuilding Commission and implementing the **Women Peace and Security Agenda**, with systems for prevention, investigation, and redress of sexual violence,
19. **Recognize and support the catalytic role of philanthropy, particularly community philanthropy, to promote sustainable development** and mobilize resources that are accessible to and adapted to the needs of communities
20. Generate **additional and predictable funds, including through innovative financing mechanisms, to allow governments and civil society actions** accelerate climate health and SDGs financing and maximize the efficiency of existing platforms and mechanisms, such as the Green Fund, Climate Adaptation Fund, Loss and Damage Fund, the Global Fund to Fight AIDS, Tuberculosis and Malaria, among others, as well as reaching, at least, the committed 0.7% ODA resources to developing countries.

Contact:

Alessandra Nilo – C20 Sherpa (alessandra.nilo@gestos.org.br)

Henrique Frota – C20 Chair (henrique.frota@abong.org.br)