CONVERGENCE DIALOGUE BETWEEN T20 AND C20

T20 Task Force 5 - Inclusive digital transformation - and C20 Working Group 7 - Digitalization and Technology*

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As economies become increasingly digital, multifaceted challenges need to be addressed. Online spaces have been fertile ground to disinformative and hateful contents which ultimately harm not only individuals, but the social fabric of democracies. In its turn, the rapid takeover of **Artificial Intelligence** brings opportunities to tackle pressing challenges in various fields, but also considerable threats to fundamental and human rights, with the risk of increasing and automatizing inequalities at the cost of techno-solutionism. Meanwhile, the **access to these digital technologies** and their enabling features is non-ubiquitous, with no one-size-fits-all solution in sight to address the difficulties that impede various populations from experiencing meaningful connectivity. On the other hand, governments have further explored investments in alternatives such as **digital public infrastructures**, recognizing that public-driven technologies can be a significant driver of future development.

This joint declaration offers recommendations for the G20 to tackle pressing global challenges through an inclusive and equitable digital transformation. The recommended areas encompass the four priorities of the Digital Economy Working Group, which are also key agendas for the Global South, currently part of the G20 Troika. The cross-cutting proposals here enshrined emphasize the unique contexts and issues faced by different groups, such as disinformation, climate and health crises, and intersectional discrimination.

This declaration stems from coordination efforts between the C20's Digitalization and Technology Working Group (WG7) and T20's Inclusive Digital Transformation Task Force

(TF5), facilitated by the BRICS Policy Center. Reflecting the robust recommendations from organized civil society, social movements, think tanks, and research centers aiming to promote data justice and a sustainable digital transformation globally, we make the following actionable recommendations to the G20.

1. CROSS-CUTTING DEMANDS

1.1. **Acknowledge the specificities of different groups and contexts**, such as (1) the context of elections and political deep fakes, climate and health disinformation, (2) other systematic societal issues, especially in developing countries; (3) intersectional approaches, such as specificities of gender disinformation, violence against women and LGBTQIAP+ people, discrimination against religions, and hate speech, discrimination in terms of disability, race or ethnicity, etc.

1.2. **Coordinate with other international processes promoting inclusive digital transformation**, such as the UN Global Digital Compact, G7, WSIS+20 and OECD Principles, beyond implementing the NetMundial+10 multistakeholder participation and monitoring guidelines.

1.3. **Establish a common framework on Data Governance and Inclusiveness of Datasets**, to weigh up the potential benefits and harms of data uses and advance fair and equitable data sharing practices. This should be achieved by: a) encouraging digital economy discussions across G20 for formulating policy proposals that leverage benefits, promote accountability, and mitigate harms; b) establishing a permanent research fund to assess the implementations of G20's policy recommendations and to promote stakeholders' engagement.

1.4. Promote **transparency mechanisms**: accessible and standardized/ disclosures from Internet platforms and on moderation and targeting algorithms.

1.5. Develop initiatives that address **each country's contextual needs and specificities** in the digital economy, while also harnessing best practices by **exploring commonalities** among different countries.

2. PROMOTE INFORMATION INTEGRITY

2.1. Contribute to **media plurality** by including privacy-oriented, **interoperability** mechanisms for leveling the playing field and **open knowledge** strategies, while also facilitating the development of alternative models of digital platforms.

3. MEANINGFUL CONNECTIVITY

3.1. Establish partnerships to diversify **financing mechanisms** and **universalization subsidies** to promote connectivity by exploring possibilities such as digital solidarity funds.

4. DIGITAL GOVERNMENT

4.1. **Foster the development of Digital Public Infrastructures (DPIs) that serve the public interest**, through democratic processes and meaningful public participation.

4.2. **Ensure inclusiveness and accountability of DPI**, aligning its creation and implementation with the community needs and values, also establishing legislative frameworks and accountable public bodies for overseeing DPIs.

4.3. Develop a **non-binding common set of principles for resilient and sustainable DPIs**, building from digital public commons, such as open data, AI models, and standards that can be freely replicated.

5. ARTIFICIAL INTELLIGENCE

5.1. Complement the G20 2019 AI principles by emphasizing **data justice and solidarity**, and applying the **precautionary principle to reduce information asymmetry** about AI risks.

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5.2. Align AI development with the UN's Sustainable Development Goals, **mitigating environmental impacts** and **improving AI supply chain conditions**, also including stakeholders in **continuous risk assessment** through external audits and data access.

5.3. Establish an AI accountability framework integrating public funding, policy, and regulation, focusing on **human-centered AI** for climate change, health, and poverty.

5.4. **Ban high-risk AI uses** like facial recognition for law enforcement.