

Civil 20 – C20 Response to the G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders’ Declaration.

The C20 welcomes the G20 Rio de Janeiro Leader’s Declaration, which places inequality at the center of the G20 agenda and reaffirms the commitments to accelerate the speed to achieve the Sustainable Development Goals (SDG) as a path to leaving no one behind.

The C20 supports the G20’s call for **stronger and more effective multilateralism**, with emphasis on the fundamental role of the United Nations and for stronger collaboration within the Economic and Social Council (ECOSOC), and the need for expanded representation of underrepresented regions in the UN Security Council to respond to the pressing global challenges.

The C20 welcomes the affirmation of the Palestinian right to self-determination, the concerns raised about **Ukraine, the Gaza Strip and the conflict escalation in Lebanon**. The G20’s call for a world free of nuclear weapons is important, although a commitment to ratification of the Treaty on the Prohibition of Nuclear Weapon (TPNW) is still missing.

The C20 welcomes the G20 call for **a more democratic international financial architecture, and for reforms** in the Bretton Woods Institutions and the multilateral development banks through greater representation of Southern voices and a review of quota shares in the IMF to better reflect the relative positions of members, while protecting the quota shares of the poorest members.

The C20 welcomes the G20 commitment to take a leading role and contribute to the success of the upcoming **Fourth International Conference on Financing for Development** in Seville in 2025, recognizing the need for solutions that cover low- and-middle-income countries and can accelerate the achievement of the SDGs.

The Declaration mentions that some countries are facing greater vulnerabilities and requiring short-term liquidity, calling on the International Monetary Fund and the World Bank to take action and report results by next year. However, the C20 reaffirms that the **debt situation** must be addressed beyond short-term liquidity pressures. Regrettably, the Common Framework for debt treatment continues to be supported, without suggesting any improvements despite its past failures. Furthermore, the C20 remains concerned that mechanisms and processes such as the Sovereign Debt Roundtable and the voluntary rechannel of Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) through Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs) were reaffirmed and continue to be implemented despite limitations and concerns about their inclusivity and creditor-centered approach.

The C20 takes note of the progress on international taxation, particularly through tax reforms to strengthen national progressive systems, and welcomes the proposal for the **taxation of high-net-worth individuals**. Nevertheless, the C20 regrets the absence of specificities on ways and timing of implementation and redistribution of resources and reaffirms the importance of supporting the ongoing negotiations for a **UN Framework Convention on Tax Cooperation**.

The C20 welcomes the leaders' reaffirmation of the need for **combating poverty, ending hunger, and assuring the right to adequate food and nutrition**, while addressing climate change, biodiversity loss, pollution, and desertification. We applaud their emphasis on **evidence-based microeconomic solutions**, such as cash transfers, school feeding programs, and microfinance, and their recognition of the importance of addressing food systems in their complexity, calling upon countries, international organizations, multilateral development banks, knowledge centers and philanthropic institutions to join the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, while centering these initiatives on country-led, country-owned, large-scale and evidence-based programs.

We welcome the commitments to **gender equality and the empowerment of women and girls**, to the implementation of the G20 Roadmap Toward and Beyond the Brisbane Goal and to challenging gender norms that prevent equitable distribution and redistribution of caregiving responsibilities. The C20 has strongly encouraged a deep analysis of the linkages between gender inequality and conflict, climate change and action, economic and social inequalities, and has called for urgent action to improve gender-sensitive health systems, address technology-facilitated gender-based violence, and take meaningful steps toward gender-responsive climate action and global economic and multilateral governance. Therefore, it is concerning that gender equality is not adequately addressed throughout the document, and not even mentioned in paragraph 24 on the intergenerational impact of inequalities and the promotion of racial and ethnic equality. Also, we note that while paragraph 32 outlines key priorities, references to sexual and reproductive health and rights, and the rights of the LGBTIQ+ community are missing, and the critical role of women in peace is not supported with commitments to improve participation and meaningful engagement.

The C20 recognizes the efforts to highlight **the right to education** and its contribution to active citizenship, economic prosperity, peace, and the general well-being of societies, and the commitment to promote inclusion, equality, and equity in education, actively combating all forms of discrimination. The support for the full professional development of educators is a critical aspect in addressing the global teacher shortage crisis but the C20 continues to stress the need to address dignified working conditions and valorization of education professionals. All of these issues depend on adequate financing for education, to which the G20 has unfortunately not made a firm commitment.

The C20 welcomes the emphasis on strengthening **global health systems and the need to achieve Universal Health Coverage**, and to advance integrated, people-centered care, including mental health, health workforce training, and inclusive, integrated, sustainable, and gender-responsive WASH systems to build resilience to the impacts of biodiversity loss, climate change, environmental degradation, water-borne diseases, disasters, and pollution. Besides the explicit support for WHO-led initiatives, and the recommitment to address major diseases such as AIDS, tuberculosis and malaria, the Declaration welcomes the establishment of a Coalition for Local and Regional Production, Innovation and Equitable Access, committed to promoting a *One Health* approach and coordinating and advancing discussions on scaling up investments in

health-related SDGs and Prevention, Preparedness, and Response to pandemics and health-related SDGs. The C20 also welcomes the work of the G20 Joint Finance and Health Task Force and is looking forward to discussing its progress by 2025.

It is important that the G20 commitment to **advance disaster risk reduction** aligns with the Sendai Framework, emphasizing preparedness and investment in people, infrastructure, and goods to build resilience. Integrating regional climate resilience with disaster preparedness supports a comprehensive strategy to reduce vulnerabilities and achieve sustainable development.

On **Climate Action**, the C20 applauds the G20 for agreeing to stronger language than in previous years to reaffirm the Paris Agreement's 1.5°C temperature goal and for, setting goals that include tripling renewable energy capacity by 2030, to scaling up climate finance for developing countries from billions to trillions; to ending plastic pollution and the commitment "to scale up urgent action to address the crises and challenges posed by climate change, biodiversity loss, desertification, ocean and land degradation, drought and pollution". We welcome the establishment of the Task Force on Global Mobilization Against Climate Change but the C20 is concerned that the G20 only reference to fossil fuels (paragraph 50) is a recommitment to its 2009 subsidies phase-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies. It is important that the G20 recommitted to the UAE Consensus and its first Global Stocktake of the Paris Agreement (GST-1), but it is staggering the absence of a specific reference to technology-neutral solutions, and no direct mention of public funding related to climate finance, as well the lack of commitment to transitioning from fossil fuels, the most important outcome of the GST-1.

On **Technology and Innovation** it is important that the G20, called for international governance of AI and bridging digital divides, including halving the gender digital divide by 2030, and agreed on promoting responsible use of technology and Artificial Intelligence (AI) to address global challenges while ensuring fairness, transparency, regulation, meaningful connectivity, privacy, data security, and human rights, while committing to assign liability from harms to ensure accountability. We remain, however, concerned about the meaning of the commitment to a "pro-innovation governance/regulatory approach for AI" and reaffirm the need to address any inherent risks through robust and firm regulation both globally and domestically.

On **social participation, although** the declaration only mentions the engagement groups once, the C20 also praises the Brazilian initiative to better integrate them (paragraph 83). We do hope to see in the future declarations the explicit commitment that the engagement groups will continue to have the opportunity to present their recommendations in official sessions of the Finance Track and the Sherpa Track; the meetings with Financing Deputies should be maintained, with the possibility of direct dialogue with Finance Ministers and Central Bank Presidents. Moreover, we call for the protection of the independence of the Engagement Groups and, in this perspective, for a rethinking of the role of the G20 Social in an open dialogue with the EGs.

Finally, the **proposal to take stock of the first cycle and make recommendations for the second cycle is welcomed** (paragraph 84), and the C20 hopes that the G20 will make progress on the C20's demand for the protection of civic space, the upholding of democracy, secularism and human rights, and the implementation of robust accountability mechanisms for the G20 decisions, with the meaningful participation of civil society organizations, particularly through the Engagement Groups.

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