

Civil 20

Civil20 is an international platform for dialogue between civil society, politicians, and experts. Recommendations developed by the Civil20 are reviewed by the heads of the G20 states. That means that civil society's stance on the most pressing international issues is heard at a high, intergovernmental level and the Civil20's suggestions are taken into account during the adoption of the G20 Summit's outcome documents.

Civil20 is an attempt to coordinate the efforts of civil circles in the G20 countries that offer solutions to problems in the areas of energy, education, health, food security, etc. These issues are transboundary in nature and require consensus and political will at the international level.

Civil society, particularly non-governmental organizations, the academic community, and large groups of citizens, significantly contribute to the transparency, monitoring and evaluation process, and follow-up on the G20's activities and commitments. Dialogue with civil society and consideration of its opinion and recommendations are extremely important for giving decisions made by the G20 greater legitimacy and to ensure these decisions carry their desired effect across all sectors of society. Involving civil society in the G20 process is also important in terms of disseminating decisions and commitments made by the leaders of the G20, as well as their intended results for society and people, to the global community.

Civil20 gives heads of states the ability to look at issues from the point of view of various cross-sections of the population and, accordingly, to make decisions that take their opinions and interests into consideration.

Civil20 is an integral part of the external communication strategy under the Russian G20 presidency (outreach dialogue), which consists of getting other international organizations, trade unions, big businesses, youth, foundations, research institutes, and non-governmental organizations involved in developing the G20 summit agenda and final decisions. Russia places high value on the role of civil society in promoting transparency, analysis, and evaluation of public policies.

Since 2009, the Russian Sherpa office to the G20 has been regularly consulting with civil society on issues related to the G20 agenda. In 2010, a Russian G8/G20 NGO Working Group was created at the Sherpa's initiative.

In order to modernize and simplify interaction with civil society under the Russian presidency, the Russian G8/G20 NGO Working Group established a secretariat responsible for organizing the G20 Civil Summit and other official events. Since 2008, the Russian G8/G20 NGO Working Group has officially represented Russia at the Global G8/G20 NGO Working Group.