

## Civil 20 Working Groups

Over the course of Russia's G20 presidency, work to expand external relations was resumed and civil society representatives from the business community, trade unions, and youth organizations were involved in G20 events. With assistance from the Russian G20 secretariat, representatives from the global civil society formed seven working groups dealing with key issues in international development. Each working group stated its positions and recommendations in a separate document, following a series of expert discussions. Proposals formulated by the working groups laid the foundation for the Address to the Leaders of the G20, which will be presented to world leaders at the G20 Summit on September 5-6, 2013 in St Petersburg.

Summary and Working Groups' Recommendations:

### ***Environmental Sustainability and Energy***

Environmental sustainability is the cornerstone of economic and energy policy for many countries. Civil society believes that the G20 should boost positive trends in the areas of energy efficiency and diversification of energy sources through the gradual elimination of fossil fuel subsidies, refusal to subsidize the construction of nuclear power plants and large hydropower stations, and by introducing additional measures to support renewable energy and technologies.

### ***Anti-Corruption***

The Civil 20 encourages cooperation within the framework of the G20 in areas of financial management and improving public advocacy in the financial sector. Establishing an information exchange about corruption between government authorities and civil institutions will enhance effectiveness in the fight against corruption.

### ***Global Financial Architecture***

The challenges of development in the 21st century require a new financial architecture created by more than adding new restrictions to the existing rules. In order to do this, there should be harmonization and coordination in resource use and the plans of various states, corporations, and all investors from private individuals to capital markets, multilateral development banks, and sovereign wealth funds. Access to financing should become a strategic goal for the new financial architecture. An international financing system should work for the benefit of the people and the planet as a whole.

### ***Jobs and Employment***

Civil society is concerned about the high unemployment, which threatens individuals and their families and is also one of the most important factors in social instability. From a civil society point of view, global standards of knowledge and professional qualifications could contribute to the mobility of the work force and equality of living standards, thereby reducing social tensions and ensuring job security during times of crises and recessions. Though this can be beneficial, globalization of the labor market also carries significant risks for G20 member states.

### ***Financial Inclusion and Financial Education***

The Civil 20 believes that broad access to financing should become the main goal of the new global financial architecture. There is still much distrust in the financial sector as a whole. A faction of civil society believes that the financial sector should make larger investments to social development, including through a tax on financial transactions. Civil 20 insists on wide dissemination of best practices in the financial services sector, protection of consumer rights, and higher levels of financial education in the G20 countries. Particular attention should be given to

programs of mutual learning and exchanging of practical experience between government agencies, consumer organizations, small businesses, and young entrepreneurs.

### ***Food Security***

Achieving food security is one of the biggest challenges of the 21st century. Civil society feels that developing a long-term strategy for food security should be aimed at better stabilizing the most vulnerable segments of the population and support in the agro sector, especially for smallholder farmers.

### ***Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals***

Civil society supports the multilateral efforts of UN in reaching their Millennium Development Goals and the consultation process in framing a new development agenda for post-2015. The role of the G20 as the largest economic forum could be in drawing up economic measures and financial mechanisms that assist in achieving these goals. The Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan should be reviewed and updated.

Recommendations from the Civil 20 working groups may be viewed at <http://www.civil20.org/documents/225/>.

A Civil Task Force was also formed in addition to the seven working groups. Two reports were produced thanks to the efforts of this working group, which has brought together representatives from international academic circles and non-governmental organizations: *Enforcing the G20 Decisions*, and *Sustainable and Balanced Growth Requires a Policy of Equal Opportunity*. These reports examine how G20 members fulfill their commitments from previous summits in the forum's seven priority areas of cooperation: implementing structural reforms and addressing imbalances; reforming international financial institutes; and reforming the financial markets. The analysis also included an evaluation of how well they are fulfilling their commitment to stymie protectionism and reduce subsidies for fossil fuels or making them more efficient. Also analyzed were official aid obligations and the capacity building of less developed nations, the spread of energy-efficient and clean technologies (including in developing countries), and resource replenishment in the multilateral development banks.