

Russian G20 Presidency

December 1, 2012 officially began the Russian presidency of the G20. The central task of the Russian presidency is to focus the forum's major economies on developing measures for key economic and financial issues that affect economic growth and job creation in all countries.

Creating the conditions for solving these issues is the main goal of the G20's work and, according to Russia, should consist of three priority areas:

- ✓ Stimulating investment;
- ✓ Ensuring transparency and credibility in international markets; and
- ✓ Improving the effectiveness of regulation.

During its G20 presidency, Russia is providing continuity to the discussions on all issues on the G20 agenda in order to foster the completion of previous commitments. The Russian presidency has proposed its own approach to reviewing these commitments.

Additionally, Russia has put forward new topics for discussion:

- ✓ Financing for investment as a foundation for economic growth and job creation;
- ✓ Modernizing national systems of public borrowing and sovereign debt management.

The working process during the Russian presidency has some special features. The basic principle is to reject empty declarations and focus on the end result. An in-depth study of the presidency's agenda was done by the Sherpas and the G20 finance ministers. Besides the regular Sherpa working meetings and the meetings of the ministers of finance and heads of central banks, for the first time in history, a joint meeting between the G20 labor ministers and the finance ministers took place. The permanent working groups were formed according to the main aims of the Russian presidency.

There are more than 40 events on the calendar of the Russian presidency, the majority of which are expert panels aimed at developing specific recommendations.

Special emphasis in preparation for the G20 summit during the Russian presidency is made on the so-called outreach dialogue through broad consultations with the international structures, businesses, trade unions, academia, research foundations and institutes, and non-profit organizations. In order to accomplish this, a new special outreach strategy of the Russian G20 presidency has been developed.

Russia is the first country presidency of the G20 to hold the Civil 20 – an expert discussion platform where representatives from civil society institutions from G20 countries formulate their proposals for the G20 agenda and final communiqué.

The Civil 20 summit will take place on June 13-14, 2013 in Moscow, which has been preceded by much expert activity within the working groups as well as regular consultations with the Sherpas (authorized proxy for the heads of state) in the following areas:

- ✓ Environmental Sustainability and Energy;
- ✓ Jobs and Employment;
- ✓ Financial Inclusion and Financial Education;
- ✓ Food Security;
- ✓ Post-2015 Millennium Development Goals;
- ✓ Global Financial Architecture;
- ✓ Anti-Corruption.

Address to the G20 Leaders is the result of this work. The document is a “civil communiqué,” which summarizes the positions and recommendations of civil society for tackling the most pressing challenges in international development.

The Civil 20 organizers chose maximum openness and held a vote for all of the formulated proposals before including them in the “civil communiqué.” With the help of a specially-created online platform called *Civil20 – Dialogues*, anyone who wanted to could vote for a particular proposal.

The Russian G20 presidency is fundamentally different from preceding ones in that project development decisions made by government heads widely used the expertise of non-governmental institutions. This, in Russia’s opinion, significantly increases the legitimacy, transparency, and effectiveness of decisions made within the G20 framework.