



**Civil Society Statement to the G20 Development Ministers Meeting  
(Varanasi, India, 11-13 June 2023)**

[Peoples20G20Summit@gmail.com](mailto:Peoples20G20Summit@gmail.com)

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**Urgent Call to the G20: Addressing Impoverishment, Inequality and Sustainable  
Development Goals (SDGs)**

We, as representatives of civil society organizations and concerned citizens from around the world, both G20 and non-G20 countries, urgently appeal to the G20 Development Ministers meeting at Varanasi, India on 11-13 June 2023 to consider the policy recommendations in its policy discussion and development to tackle the pressing challenges related to development.

International community has been facing the crisis and challenges such as impoverishment, inequality, food and energy crisis, climate change, and the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

We are witnessing an alarming increase in poverty and inequality across nations, exacerbating the suffering of vulnerable populations. The COVID-19 pandemic has further exposed and deepened these inequalities, leaving millions without access to basic necessities, healthcare, education, and decent livelihoods.

The world is grappling with a growing food and energy crisis, with rising prices, scarcity, and inadequate access to nutritious food and sustainable energy sources as consequence of the war in Ukraine.

The devastating impacts of climate change are increasingly evident, posing significant threats to ecosystems, livelihoods, and the well-being of future generations as illustrated by numerous disasters. The urgency of the climate crisis demands bold and ambitious actions.

We urge the G20 to lead by example and accelerate the transition to a low-carbon economy, significantly reduce greenhouse gas emissions, and increase investments in renewable energy and sustainable infrastructure. Furthermore, the G20 must reaffirm its commitment to the SDGs and develop comprehensive strategies to achieve them by 2030, leaving no goal behind.

Addressing these interrelated challenges requires global solidarity, cooperation, and accountability. The time for action is now, and failure to act decisively will have severe consequences for the well-being of people and the planet.

The G20, as the premier forum for international economic cooperation, has a unique responsibility to lead the way. We call upon G20 leaders to strengthen international institutions, promote multilateralism, and engage in transparent and inclusive decision-making processes. Civil society organizations, grassroots movements, and marginalized communities must be actively involved in shaping policies and actions that affect their lives.

We call upon the G20 leaders and policy makers to prioritize these critical issues and undertake comprehensive policy measures to foster a just and sustainable future for all in the following areas.

#### Policy Coherence and Implementation:

- Foster policy coherence within the G20 across sectors like trade, finance, agriculture, and climate change to avoid undermining development objectives.
- Comprehensively assess the delivery of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development by all G20 member states to develop common guidelines to implement the recommendations from the annual SDGs Progress Reports and quadrennial Global Sustainable Development Report (GSDR) for accelerating the SDGs.
- Prioritize the needs and challenges of least developed countries (LDCs) within the G20 agenda by implementing the Doha Programme of Action for LDCs as adopted in March 2023.
- Support a rule-based international economic and trade order based on the respect for international human rights, labor and humanitarian law standards at home and abroad.

#### Structural Obstacles and Economic Governance:

- Identify and address structural obstacles hindering sustainable development in developing countries, such as trade imbalances, protectionism, market access barriers, intellectual property rights and debt sustainability.
- Foster fair and equitable global economic governance, including the international financial architecture.

#### Support for Developing Countries:

- Develop G20 action plans to support developing countries in implementing the SDGs through Goal 17 on means of implementation and partnerships.
- Ensure greater representation of developing countries, especially LDCs, in the G20 decision-making process, involving both government representatives, civil society organizations (CSOs), and various stakeholders.

- Support and facilitate South-South Cooperation and Triangular Cooperation to implement the relevant targets of SDG 17 related to means of implementation (SDG Target 17.1-12) and partnerships (SDG Target 17.17)
- Urge development partners to fulfil, at the earliest, their aid commitment – ODA equivalent to 0.7% of their Gross National Income (GNI) for the developing country, in particular, 0.15-0.20 per cent of their dedicated for the Least Developed Countries (LDCs) including allocation of the at least 50 per cent of net ODA to LDCs as highlighted in paragraph 52 of the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA).
- Further urge the all donors to establish rolling indicative timelines that illustrate how they aim to reach their ODA target in accordance with their respective budget allocation processes as suggested in the Doha Declaration on Financing for Development.
- Urge development partners to uphold the principles of aid and development effectiveness, including predictability and transparency, harmonisation, country ownership, and untied aid.

Technology Transfer and Capacity Building:

- Facilitate technology transfer and knowledge sharing and promote access to affordable and appropriate technologies among G20 members and between the G20 and non-G20 countries.
- Promote partnerships, capacity building, and technical assistance to help developing countries leverage technological advancements for sustainable development including technology transfer and manufacturing capacity of vaccines and life-saving drugs.

Human Rights, Gender Mainstreaming, and Multi-stakeholder Engagement:

- Apply a human rights-based approach to development and gender mainstreaming in all G20 policy discussions and initiatives.
- Promote inclusive multi-stakeholder engagement by formally taking into account the recommendations from the engagement groups such as civil society organizations, women, youth, think tanks, etc. in G20 discussions and initiatives.
- Promote better access to information and fundamental freedoms which are essential to ensuring effective and meaningful civil society partnerships as 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

**With regard to the upcoming UN 2<sup>nd</sup> SDGs Summit (18-19 September 2023)**

- ① Reaffirm the G20's commitment to the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and its Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and align G20 priorities and actions with the SDGs to ensure coherence and maximize their impact.
- ② Demonstrate strong leadership by advocating for a political declaration at the Summit that contains bold and ambitious action plans on SDGs for the period from the second half of 2024 to 2030.

- ③ Develop G20 action plans and roadmap based on the independent assessment of the G20 countries' commitment to the SDGs and Paris climate agreement through the Voluntary National Report (VNR) and Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs)
- ④ Develop the G20 action plan to implement the outcome document of the UN Transforming Education Summit (TES) in September 2022 as part of the Our Common Agenda (OCA) of the UN Secretary General.
- ⑤ Support and strengthen the SDG 16+ approach as an enabler of the 2030 Agenda and make SDG 16 a permanent goal alongside SDG 17 at the annual UN High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF).
- ⑥ Strengthen the local implementation of the SDGs and Paris climate agreement through the institutionalization of voluntary local review (VLR) in the HLPF.
- ⑦ Strengthen the monitoring mechanisms for the SDGs, such as the Voluntary National Review (VNR), by introducing reporting mechanisms by the UN system and civil society, as well as policy recommendations from other governments, similar to the Universal Periodic Review (UPR) conducted by the UN Human Rights Council.
- ⑧ Promote global citizenship education through the SDG Target 4.7 in order to tackle racism, violent extremism, xenophobia and intolerance for better inter-cultural and inter-civilizational dialogue and alliance.

**PEOPLES' 20** is a global network and initiative comprising civil society actors and organizations that voluntarily engage with the G20 summit and related processes. It was officially launched on March 1, 2023, following a series of consultation meetings among CSOs in India and internationally who have been actively involved with the G20 since 2010.

As a coalition of civil society organizations, **PEOPLES' 20** strives to ensure that the voices of marginalized and excluded communities and peoples are heard and reflected in international decision-making processes within the G20.

**PEOPLES' 20** aims to engage with various stakeholder groups of the G20, such as CSOs, labor organizations, think tanks, women's groups, and youth in solidarity with other like-minded CSOs at other inter-governmental processes including the UN, G7 and BRICS.

PEOPLES' 20 welcomes the participation and contributions of any civil society actors who are willing to agree and work collaboratively towards achieving the mission and goals.

- To join [bit.ly/JoinPEOPLES20](https://bit.ly/JoinPEOPLES20)
- Contact [peoples20g20summit@gmail.com](mailto:peoples20g20summit@gmail.com)
- Website [Http://PEOPLES20.org](http://PEOPLES20.org) (under construction)

**Interim Secretariat** India Social Action Forum (INSAF)

A124/6 First floor, Katwaria Sarai, New Delhi 110016, India