



The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance Hamburg Communiqué

Signed in Hamburg, Germany and in cities around the world on October 28, 2022.

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20YEA) is a collective of organizations in G20 countries that promote youth entrepreneurship as a driver of economic renewal, job creation, innovation and social change, representing thousands of young entrepreneurs. Each year, the G20YEA brings together hundreds of the world's top young entrepreneurs to share their ideas with the B20 and G20 leaders to catalyze global change.

The 2022 G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance Summit was held in Hamburg, Germany rather than in Indonesia to accommodate ongoing COVID uncertainties. It brought together hundreds of young entrepreneurs and their supportive organizations to unite their voices in an urgent call for action from the G20 Leaders.

The following three priority areas and their corresponding recommendations came from a thorough consultative process where each G20 YEA member country engaged its delegation to define and agreed upon common priorities to support youth entrepreneurship in post-pandemic recovery. These were framed in consideration of the 2030 UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their operationalization through the following actions.

Promote an inclusive global recovery

The COVID-19 pandemic has posed an unprecedented challenge for the world's young entrepreneurs. Rapidly changing business conditions, including the impacts of rising energy costs, supply chain disruptions, community lockdowns and shortages of raw materials have compounded the challenges posed by ongoing issues such as the climate crisis, rising levels of intolerance and growing barriers to international mobility.

Entrepreneurs have always been a resource that has helped their respective societies respond and thrive in times of challenge. To support and encourage young entrepreneurs as we address the challenge of a truly inclusive global recovery, we call upon G20 governments to enact the following recommendations:

- 1. Ensure inclusive access to capital for all stages of entrepreneurial business development.** Access to appropriate capital continues to be a challenge at all stages of the entrepreneurial journey and this is often even more prevalent for women, those of different abilities, and other historically marginalized groups. We would urge G20 leaders to set a global goal that no young entrepreneur should be denied access to appropriate capital to explore and grow their proven business ideas. Existing and future public financing models should address regional discrepancies and focus on the inclusion of under-represented groups in their design and execution. The G20 could, together with global financial partners, establish a young entrepreneur investment fund that could support the development of specific solutions for capital availability that are appropriate for individual countries' growth ecosystems.
- 2. Support the creation of a global digital entrepreneurial ecosystem.** The global entrepreneurial ecosystem is a continuum that spans early and ongoing education, incubators and community supports, government policies and incentives, various investment bodies and a range of other supports. While the businesses started by many entrepreneurs are digital from their inception, the global infrastructure in which those entrepreneurs operate is partly digital, partly analogue and largely disconnected. We urge the G20 Leaders to coordinate and support the creation of a global digital infrastructure that will connect the disparate parts of the entrepreneurial ecosystem to foster education, share resources, bridge the divide between rural and urban areas, and increase access to funding and mentorship opportunities – among other benefits.

3. **Invest in comprehensive entrepreneurial education.** Tomorrow's economy is being created in today's education system, and entrepreneurs will be a vital part of that future. Encouraging young people to consider entrepreneurship and supporting them as they begin to start and run businesses will be key to a dynamic future business climate that delivers the inclusive growth and solutions across the G20. We urge the G20 Leaders to commit to global efforts to educate and support the next generation of entrepreneurs.
4. **Simplify measures to create and grow businesses.** The overly bureaucratic and lengthy process to incorporate, register and grow a business in many parts of the G20 is a serious barrier to overall economic progress. This drives many smaller businesses into the informal economy, where they generally cannot realize their growth potential due to lack of access to capital and other barriers. It also discourages innovation by concentrating economic activity in larger, established enterprises that are far less likely to take risks on transformational technology, approaches and business models. To level this playing field and ensure start-ups and Micro-, Small- and Medium-sized Enterprises (MSMEs) can realize their potential, we urge G20 Leaders to establish G20 aspirational targets for simplifying the processes necessary to start new businesses.
5. **Recognize that entrepreneurial growth relies upon finding and hiring trained employees.** Starting a company and fostering its growth presents a number of challenges, but an increasing barrier in this area has been finding sufficient numbers of skilled employees to allow start-ups and MSMEs to grow and scale. This is an issue of volume, speed and specialization. Growing enterprises need more employees from diverse backgrounds, who can be quickly found, and who are skilled in specific areas (such as engineering, programming, and green technologies). We urge G20 Leaders to endorse a global effort to train the next generation of employees for the jobs that are being created by the next generation of entrepreneurs.
6. **Use existing procurement to support entrepreneurs, start-ups and MSMEs.** Governments across the G20 spend significant portions of their budgets to procure goods and services from a range of vendors. This process, which is already part of established spending, can be a powerful tool to incentivize and support the next generation of economic growth. A government contract can be an important business builder for any entrepreneur, giving their business that vital first client or allowing them to scale production to competitive levels. We urge G20 Leaders to coordinate efforts to use procurement to support next generation businesses, setting an aspirational global target that a set percentage of procurement purchases be directed to entrepreneurs, start-ups and MSMEs.

Foster peace through sustainable growth and economic inclusion

The global economic family is suffering significantly from the effects of the first major European war in more than 70 years, and the spectre of possible conflicts in other parts of the world is having a chilling effect on global growth. At the same time, the need for the creation of sustainable economic opportunities has never been more urgent.

At a time when we should be forging strong economic and social connections across borders, we are focusing on forging weapons instead. On a social level, too many marginalized persons and groups are still being denied the justice that comes from economic inclusion. This is particularly the case for many women, who face the added burden of the emotional labour of caring for children, elders and others, making them less likely to fully participate in entrepreneurial opportunities.

To ensure that entrepreneurship creates opportunities for the broadest range of those living in G20 countries and encourages peace through sustainable growth, we call upon G20 governments to enact the following recommendations:

7. **Commit to a global goal to increase the inclusion of women and other marginalized groups in entrepreneurial opportunities.** Given that women and other marginalized groups (including but not limited to cultural, linguistic and neurodiverse minorities, those of different physical abilities and the gender diverse) are often excluded from entrepreneurship, we call upon the G20 Leaders to commit to a global goal of increasing inclusion in this vital area. This could include sharing of best practices or other globally-coordinated measures with respect to areas such as training, mentor circles, upskilling, group-focused lending and initiatives to discourage discrimination. With particular relevance for aspiring women entrepreneurs, measures are urgently needed to increase the availability of affordable and accessible child-care, and other care work support and considerations, and to address the established barriers faced by women entrepreneurs in specific industries and roles (e.g. STEM entrepreneurship).
8. **Lay the groundwork for an entrepreneur-led rebuild and recovery effort for Ukraine.** Given the tragedy of aggressive war that has been visited upon Ukraine, we urge the G20 leaders, as they work for peace, to also begin to lay the groundwork for the economic and social recovery of Eastern Europe. This could include proactively creating business connections between Ukrainian and G20 entrepreneurs, supporting industry- and sector-specific outreach and eventual trade missions, and supporting a joint working group between the G20 Industry Ministers, the B20, and the G20 YEA to coordinate mutual efforts.

Climate and energy entrepreneurship for a sustainable future

The ongoing global energy crisis is occurring against the backdrop of a transitional energy crisis, as G20 countries will eventually have to face the challenge of transitioning to more sustainable and climate-friendly energy sources while finding secure fossil-fuel sources in the short term. The solutions for this transition are already being pioneered by climate and energy entrepreneurs across the G20, and we will need many more such entrepreneurs and the innovations they create to quickly move to a more sustainable energy future.

We call upon the G20 Leaders to support climate and energy entrepreneurship as a means towards a more sustainable global future through the following measures:

9. **Coordinated measures to support renewable energy entrepreneurs.** The transition to a sustainable economy will require a significant expansion of the world's renewable energy infrastructure and the ecosystem that supports it. This will require coordinated global action in areas as diverse as planning and approval procedures, transboundary finance and investment, regulatory reforms, and technology acceleration and transfer. We urge the G20 Leaders to enact measures that will connect energy entrepreneurs across the globe and support promising technologies and approaches that will hasten the renewable energy transition.
10. **Support for further targeted financing of ecological and sustainable entrepreneurship.** The transition to a sustainable economy will involve new modes of preserving vital ecosystems, from the Amazon rainforest to the world's oceans and national parks systems. This often sets up a false dichotomy between the economy and the environment, when both are complementary. We would urge the G20 Leaders to enact global measures that support entrepreneurs who are pioneering new ways of protecting ecosystems and those that are innovating new methods of financing the sustainable economy of tomorrow. This includes and is not limited to supporting MSMEs focusing on clean water supply, to funding MSMEs investing in product life-cycle assessments, incentivize MSMEs to focus on reusable products and packaging, alleviate tax and red tape on recycling and upcycling processes across borders and industries, and better supporting entrepreneurial initiatives partaking in circular economies.

On behalf of millions of young entrepreneurs in G20 countries and the tens of millions of nascent entrepreneurs who have yet to begin their entrepreneurial path, we submit these recommendations in the spirit of partnership and in a firm belief that encouraging entrepreneurship across our societies will lead to

dynamism, growth and the economic and social renewal of our planet. Specifically, we believe immediate action in the areas noted above will send a powerful message to those who can lead this effort – our young entrepreneurs.