



Implementing the Sustainable Development Goals - B20 Recommendations for Inclusive and Future-oriented Development

B20 Background

Business20 (B20) is one of seven engagement groups in the G20 process. The SDGs have to be implemented by governments, but business can contribute to the implementation of these goals in different ways. Therefore, the B20 Task Forces and Cross-thematic Groups integrated several recommendations that align with the SDGs in their policy papers.

They focus on inclusiveness by creating and improving access of companies to energy, financial and digital infrastructure as well as trade. Both, inclusiveness and trade, play an important role for human and economic development. Embracing responsibility and future-oriented thinking will ensure the sustainability of implementing these recommendations.

Contributing to Goal 8 of the SDGs – Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all – is central for B20. In addition, the recommendations are relevant to the SDGs 1, 4, 7, 9, 10, 13, 16, 17, as described below.

Recommendations from the B20 Task Forces and Cross-thematic Groups with regards to the SDGs

SDG 4: Ensure inclusive and equitable quality education and promote lifelong learning opportunities for all

SDG 8: Promote sustained, inclusive and sustainable economic growth, full and productive employment and decent work for all.

B20 Recommendation: Open, dynamic and inclusive labour markets¹ - G20 members should promote open, dynamic and inclusive labour markets by removing structural and legal barriers, promoting various forms of work and female employment and by bringing labour migration policies in line with labour market needs.

Policy Action: Various Forms of Work - Governments should remove legal and structural barriers on the labour market and promote various forms of work (e.g. diverse forms and terms of employment and work organization).

Policy Action: Female Employment – Governments should ensure policy frameworks improve female entrepreneurship and female labour market participation.

¹ Task Force Employment & Education, Recommendation 1

Policy Action: Migration Policies – G20 countries should bring labour migration policies in line with labour market needs including those of enterprises.

B20 Recommendation: Technological Change² – G20 members should harness the potential of technological change through better education and training, entrepreneurship and innovation frameworks.

Policy Action: Regulations – G20 countries should implement clear and consistent regulations while reducing bureaucracy to drive innovation.

Policy Action: Skills Development – G20 countries should urgently invest in skills development by identifying jointly with the business community the skills needs of each country and establish in cooperation with the social partners vocational training programs that instruct workers in skills that make them competitive in the new economy.

Policy Action: Entrepreneurship – G20 countries should promote entrepreneurship and entrepreneurship education.

B20 Recommendation: Global Level Playing Field³ – G20 members should create a global level playing field and promote fair competition.

Policy Action: National Legislation – G20 countries should ensure better implementation and enforcement of legislation at the national level. It is the duty of the State to protect people in its territory against human rights infringements and it is the responsibility of companies to comply with national laws and respect human rights.

Policy Action: Existing Initiatives – G20 should build on the German G7 Presidency as well as the ILO ILC Discussion on Decent Work in global supply chains and strengthen existing initiatives on promoting sustainable Supply Chains.

Policy Action: UN Guiding Principles and OECD MNE Guidelines – The G20 should promote the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights and the OECD Guidelines for Multinational Enterprises in order to strengthen responsible business conduct and shape a global level playing field.

SDG 7.a: By 2030, enhance international cooperation to facilitate access to clean energy research and technology, including renewable energy, energy efficiency and advanced and cleaner fossil-fuel technology, and promote investment in energy infrastructure and clean energy technology.

B20 Recommendation: Foster the Global Energy Transition⁴ – The G20 should accelerate the market readiness and deployment of low-carbon technologies through effective and predictable energy policies, a joint innovation agenda, and strengthened Energy Access Action Plans.

Policy Action: Energy Policies – The G20 should promote effective and predictable policies for an accelerated transition of the energy system by broadening the technology scope of the

² Task Force Employment & Education, Recommendation 2

³ Task Force Employment & Education, Recommendation 3

⁴ Task Force Energy, Climate & Resource Efficiency, Recommendation 2

G20 Voluntary Action Plan for Renewable Energy and developing an energy policy toolkit.

Policy Action: Energy Innovation – The G20 should develop a G20 Energy Innovation Action Plan to accelerate the market readiness of innovative technologies, business models, and digital solutions that can contribute to large GHG emissions reductions within the next decades.

Policy Action: Universal Access to Clean and Affordable Energy – The G20 should strengthen the G20 Energy Access Action Plans by supporting the development of urban and rural action plans, and clean cooking strategies, and by mobilizing private sector participation in sustainable infrastructure development.

B20 Recommendation: Advance Resource and Energy Efficiency⁵ – The G20 should advance resource and energy efficiency by establishing an intergovernmental Resource Efficiency Platform and translating the Voluntary Energy Efficiency Investment Principles into a policy toolkit.

Policy Action: Energy Efficiency – The G20 should accelerate the efforts within the G20 Energy Efficiency Leading Programme by translating the Voluntary Energy Efficiency Investment Principles into a policy toolkit.

SDG 9.1: Develop quality, reliable, sustainable and resilient infrastructure, including regional and transborder infrastructure, to support economic development and human well-being, with a focus on affordable and equitable access for all.

B20 Recommendation: Boosting Infrastructure Finance⁶ – G20 members should boost infrastructure finance by promoting bankable infrastructure projects, enhancing the role of Multilateral Development Banks (MDBs), and fostering green finance markets.

Policy Action: Promoting Bankable Infrastructure Projects – The G20 should ask the Global Infrastructure Hub (GIH) in conjunction with the World Bank to promote global pipelines of investible infrastructure projects through standardization of documentation, access to project information, as well as sharing and adoption of best practices on international public-private partnerships (PPP).

Policy Action: Enhancing the Role of MDBs – The G20 should encourage MDBs to further expand their role as catalysts for private sector investment and to enhance data-sharing with private stakeholders.

Policy Action: Fostering Green Finance – The G20 and G20 members should foster the development of green finance markets by improving the coherence of terminologies, concepts and information disclosure, as well as appropriate and consistent market regulations.

SDG 9.3: Increase the access of small-scale industrial and other enterprises, in particular in developing countries, to financial services, including affordable credit, and their integration into value chains and markets.

⁵ Task Force Energy, Climate & Resource Efficiency, Recommendation 3

⁶ Task Force Financing Growth & Infrastructure, Recommendation 1

B20 Recommendation: Improving Access to Finance⁷ – G20 members should ensure the implementation of the G20/OECD High Level Principles and the G20 Action Plan on SME Finance and the G20 High Level Principles on Digital Financial Inclusion, in particular by improving the financial infrastructure, enhancing access to diversified financial instruments, and advancing digital financial inclusion.

Policy Action: Improving Financial Infrastructure for SME – G20 members should improve the financial infrastructure for SMEs by consulting with the private sector on policy reforms in credit reporting, secured transactions and collateral registries, as well as insolvency and by mandating the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and the OECD to better assess the impact of financial regulations on lending to SMEs.

Policy Action: Fostering Digital Financial Inclusion – The G20 should implement the G20 High Principles for Digital Financial Inclusion by ensuring that the SME dimensions are considered in the drafting process of the country-level actions and by boosting financial literacy of SMEs.

SDG 9.C: Significantly increase access to information and communications technology and strive to provide universal and affordable access to the Internet in least developed countries by 2020.

B20 Recommendation: Building Digital Capacities⁸ – G20 members should facilitate SME access to the digital economy by strengthening digital infrastructure outside industrial centers, leveraging support for international multistakeholder initiatives on e-commerce, and firming the knowledge base on SME needs.

Policy Action: Improving Internet Access Outside Industrial Centers – G20 members should foster SME Internet access by strengthening digital infrastructure outside industrial centers, incorporating comprehensive and targeted Digital Strategies, as well as raising SME awareness and capabilities through Innovation Hubs.

Policy Action: Advancing Participation in Digital Trade – G20 members should foster SME participation in digital trade by reducing regulatory barriers and enhancing SME ecommerce readiness by leveraging support for international multistakeholder initiatives on ecommerce such as the eWTP and the SME Market Link of the World SME Forum.

Policy Action: Better Measurement of the Digital Economy – G20 members, together with the respective international organizations such as the OECD, should improve measurements of the digital economy, paying close regard to SMEs, to create a better basis for SME relevant policy-making.

B20 Recommendation: Foster Global Connectivity⁹ – The G20 should foster global connectivity through the definition of a harmonized cybersecurity baseline framework, by supporting norms for responsible state behavior, by enabling free and trustworthy cross-border data flows, and by fostering investment in ICT infrastructure as well as in skill and capacity building.

⁷ Cross-thematic Group SMEs, Recommendation 3

⁸ Cross-thematic Group SMEs, Recommendation 2

⁹ Task Force Digitalization, Recommendation 1

Policy Action: Expand ICT Infrastructure – To foster affordable broadband access for all, G20 members should support private investments in ICT by a simplified, market-oriented, technology-neutral, and transparent regulatory environment, complemented with investment incentives to support less-profitable deployments, as well as investments for skill and capacity building.

SDG 13: Take urgent action to combat climate change and its impacts.

B20 Recommendation: Curtail Climate Change¹⁰ – The G20 should curtail climate change by implementing the Paris Agreement and developing consistent carbon pricing.

Policy Action: Paris Agreement – The G20 governments should support the UNFCCC in developing an effective Paris rulebook with close business participation, submit NDC with high and comparable ambition levels, and develop transparent national long-term low GHG emission development strategies.

Policy Action: Carbon Pricing – The G20 should establish an intergovernmental G20 Carbon Pricing Platform as a forum for strategic dialogue to create a basis for global GHG emissions pricing mechanisms, and to phase-out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, using its revenues to finance an energy transition that benefits all.

SDG 16.6: Develop effective, accountable and transparent institutions at all levels.

B20 Recommendation: Enhance Responsible Business Conduct in Infrastructure Projects¹¹ – G20 should increase transparency and accountability at all stages of the project cycle in order to mitigate the risk of corruption and increase efficiency.

Policy Action: Promote Responsible Government Conduct and Transparency – G20 members should ensure that public infrastructure contracts are planned, awarded and managed openly and accountably by promoting integrity in their own organizational structures and processes and by enhancing reporting about project risks, impacts, progress and costs.

Policy Action: Provide Recognition of Responsible Businesses – G20 members should promote integrity among participating businesses by defining pre-conditions related to RBC, encouraging coherent sustainability reporting, and providing awareness training.

Policy Action: Support Integrity Pacts, High Level Reporting Mechanism and Collective Action – G20 should promote anti-corruption initiatives between businesses and between businesses and the public sector and initiate a study that explores ways to fight corruption in infrastructure projects.

SDG 10: Reduce inequality within and among countries.

SDG 17.10: Promote a universal, rules-based, open, non-discriminatory and equitable multilateral trading system under the World Trade Organization, including through the conclusion of negotiations under its Doha Development Agenda.

¹⁰ Task Force Energy, Climate & Resource Efficiency, Recommendation 1

¹¹ Cross-thematic Group Responsible Business Conduct & Anti-Corruption, Recommendation 3

SDG 17.11: Significantly increase the exports of developing countries, in particular with a view to doubling the least developed countries' share of global exports by 2020.

B20 Recommendation: Strengthen an Open and Inclusive Trading System¹² –The G20 should confirm its unconditional commitment to open and inclusive trade that is underpinned by transparency and robust adjustment assistance programs, resistance to protectionism in all forms, and a strong, non-discriminatory rules-based global trading system.

Policy Action: Enhance Communication and Inclusiveness – The G20 should establish a common understanding of the effects and benefits of trade, better communicate on trade issues, improve assistance for those displaced by trade, and put a focus on making trade more inclusive.

Policy Action: Implement Protectionism Standstill and Rollback – G20 members urgently need to honor their commitment to halt and roll back protectionist measures, improve their track record of related notifications, and provide greater transparency on the damages of trade barriers.

Policy Action: Liberalization under the WTO Framework – G20 members should pursue further negotiation tracks, preferably under the WTO umbrella, including negotiations on sectoral and plurilateral agreements.

B20 Recommendation: Make Use of Digital Trade's Potential¹³ – The G20 should facilitate an enabling environment for digital trade by accelerating capacity building, encouraging implementation of interoperable and non-discriminatory e-commerce-related policies, and calling for a WTO negotiation mandate on digital trade.

Policy Action: Streamline Capacity Building – G20 members should accelerate the inclusive buildup of e-commerce capacities, especially in developing countries and for micro-, small-, and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs).

Policy Action: Ensure Sound E-commerce-related Policies – G20 members should ensure that e-commerce-related policies are interoperable and non-discriminatory, and strengthen the regulatory dialog with all relevant stakeholders.

Policy Action: Adapt Trade Rules to the Digital Age – The G20 should instigate a WTO negotiation mandate on digital trade at the next WTO Ministerial Conference, which should address free cross-border data flows, trade in digital products and services, trade facilitation, regulatory coherence, and other identified legal gaps.

B20 Recommendation: Facilitating SME Participation in Cross-Border Trade¹⁴ – G20 members should facilitate SME access to cross-border trade and global value chains (GVCs) by systematically including their voice and needs in trade agreements, by capacity building, and by easing business travel.

Policy Action: Strengthening SME Voice in Trade Agreements – The G20 should facilitate the inclusion of SME needs in trade agreements, including in the implementation of

¹² Task Force Trade and Investment, Recommendation 1

¹³ Task Force Trade and Investment, Recommendation 2

¹⁴ Cross-thematic Group SMEs, Recommendation 1

the TFA, by recommending a stronger SME representation in the WTO, and by strengthening knowledge as well as clarifying priorities on SME market access impediments.

Policy Action: Boosting Trade Capacity Building for SMEs – The G20 should request multilateral and national development institutions as well as business and SME associations to strengthen SME trade capacity building by providing funding and expertise.

Policy Action: Ease Business Travel – The G20 should discuss a G20 Business Travel Card to allow fast track clearance across G20 members to promote a freer flow of skills and talent across borders.

SDG 1.B: Create sound policy frameworks at the national, regional and international levels, based on pro-poor and gender-sensitive development strategies, to support accelerated investment in poverty eradication actions.

SDG 10.B: Encourage official development assistance and financial flows, including foreign direct investment, to states where the need is greatest, in particular least developed countries, African countries, small island developing states and landlocked developing countries, in accordance with their national plans and programs.

SDG 17.5: Adopt and implement investment promotion regimes for least developed countries.

B20 Recommendation: Foster Investment Facilitation¹⁵ – The G20 should foster a reliable legal environment, enhance sustainable investment facilitation, and identify the benefits and drawbacks of a Multilateral Investment Framework.

Policy Action: Strengthen a Reliable Legal Environment – The G20 should further develop and build on the G20 Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking, make progress on a concrete G20 Investment Facilitation Package, and support the resumption of a dialog in the WTO on strengthening coherence of trade and investment policies.

Policy Action: Support Sustainable Investment Facilitation – The G20 should enhance international support programs for investment in developing countries to meet the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs).

Policy Action: Explore a Potential Multilateral Investment Framework – Building on the Guiding Principles for Global Investment Policymaking, the G20 should mandate the OECD, UNCTAD, UNCITRAL, and the WTO to prepare a study on benefits, challenges, drawbacks, and potential components of a multilateral investment framework.

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¹⁵ Task Force Trade and Investment, Recommendation 3



Factsheet B20

The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue with the global business community. On September 4 2016, the leading German business associations BDI, BDA, and DIHK, mandated by the German Chancellery, assumed the B20 presidency. Chair of B20 Germany is Dr Jürgen Heraeus.

B20 Role and Activities

The B20 is the voice of the G20 business community. The B20's foundation is the development of recommendations to the G20 in taskforces and cross-thematic groups that are constituted by business representatives and experts from the G20 countries. The B20 identifies areas where G20 action is crucial.

B20 Taskforces and Cross-thematic Groups

Taskforces

- Trade and Investment
- Energy, Climate & Resource Efficiency
- Financing Growth & Infrastructure
- Digitalization
- Employment & Education

Cross-thematic Groups

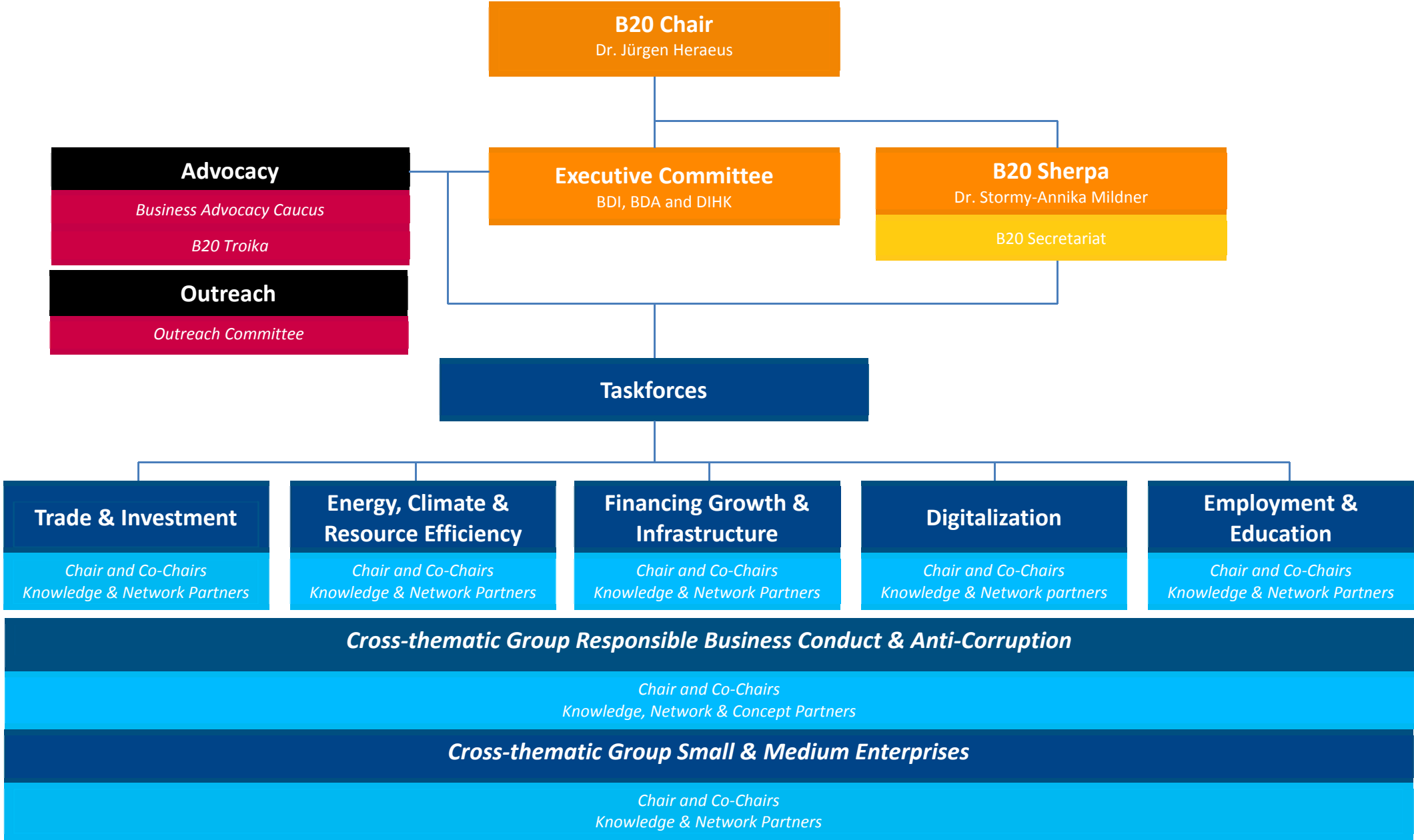
- Responsible Business Conduct & Anti-Corruption
- SMEs

Since September 2016, more than 800 representatives from companies and business association developed recommendations for the G20 on a consensual basis. In February 2017, the B20 Health Initiative was launched. Each group is headed by a chair and several co-chairs. The approximately 100 members of each group represent all G20 countries and sectors of the economy.

Events

The B20 involves a series of events with participants from politics, business, and civil society. The highlight of the Presidency is the B20 Summit in May 2017 with the participation of German Chancellor Angela Merkel. Taskforce/cross-thematic group meetings or conference calls take place monthly from October 2016 to March 2017.

B20 Germany Structure



Glossary

B20 Chair: The B20 Chair leads the B20 process, sets the main guidelines, and represents the B20 vis-à-vis politics, the international business community as well as the public at large.

Executive Committee: The Executive Committee is constituted by the presidents of BDI, BDA and DIHK. The Executive Committee takes fundamental decisions concerning B20 by consensus and instructs the B20 Sherpa.

B20 Sherpa: The B20 Sherpa is responsible for operational management of the B20 presidency and supports the B20 Chair. She supplies basic orientation for the B20 recommendations and oversees the process of preparing policy papers. The work of the B20 Sherpa is supported by a B20 Secretariat and Mr. Robert Milliner, the 2014 B20 Sherpa during the Australian Presidency, who will act as a Special Advisor to the Executive Committee.

Business Advocacy Caucus: The Business Advocacy Caucus (BAC) comprises about sixty CEOs and business organisation leaders from the G20 states. The members will be appointed by the B20 presidency. The main task of the BAC is public and political advocacy of the B20 recommendations to enhance the visibility and legitimacy of the B20.

Outreach Committee: The representatives of the other G20 Engagement Groups (C20, L20, S20, T20, W20 and Y20) form a joint Outreach Committee to ensure the inclusivity and legitimacy of the B20 process.

B20 Troika: The Sherpas from B20 Germany, B20 China and B20 Argentina form an advisory committee to ensure the continuity and coherence of the B20 process.

Taskforces: The Taskforces (TFs) develop recommendations and concrete policy proposals. Their members are senior representatives of businesses, associations and organizations. Each TF has a Chair who chairs its sessions, guides the drafting of policy papers and presents the TF's recommendations in public and political forums. Each chair may be assisted by several Co-Chairs. Chairs and Co-Chairs are appointed by the B20 presidency; they are leading business figures from the entire G20, such as CEOs, supervisory board members and association principals.

Cross-thematic Groups: The Cross-thematic Groups (CTGs) have the same structure and working processes as TFs. They also draft policy papers with recommendations and concrete policy proposals to the G20. SMEs, responsible business conduct and anti-corruption are per se cross-thematic issues. In order to take these into account across all B20 recommendations and to have expertise from all thematic areas represented in CTGs, simultaneous membership in a TF and a CTG is encouraged.

Knowledge Partners: Knowledge Partners work with the B20 Secretariat and representatives of the TF chairs to prepare B20 policy papers – under the oversight of the Secretariat and on the basis of the discussions in the TFs and CTGs. Knowledge partners also supply inputs and support the B20 Secretariat in coordination processes and preparation of contributions.

Network Partners: Network Partners are international business organisations and networks. They provide essential support to TFs/CTGs by feeding in their expertise as well as by engaging their broad international constituency in TF/CTG activities, and disseminating recommendations. The Network Partners also support TF/CTG advocacy activities.

Concept Partners: Concept Partners are initiatives or organizations that are experts and stakeholders for specific issues. They provide their expertise in the drafting of recommendations and play an important role in setting up the agenda of the respective TF/CTG.