



G20 GERMANY 2017
HAMBURG

HAMBURG ANNUAL
PROGRESS REPORT
ON G20 DEVELOPMENT
COMMITMENTS



Executive Summary

► As the group of the world's economically most significant countries, the G20 has ranked sustainable development high on its agenda. Since the initiation of the G20's Development Working Group (DWG) in 2010, the group has agreed on actions in many areas to support sustainable development, fight poverty, and ensure decent living in the G20 countries and across the world. The areas of action range from strengthening infrastructure and investment to increasing domestic resource mobilisation and ensuring food security and nutrition.

The areas of action are based on the nine pillars of the *Multi-Year Action Plan on Development*, which was adopted by G20 leaders in Seoul in 2010. Each year, new commitments are made by the G20 that originate from the work of the DWG. In Hangzhou in 2016, the *G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, which was developed in the DWG in co-operation with other working groups and workstreams, was adopted by the G20 leaders. With this, the G20 has embraced its responsibility to coherently contribute to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda, both internationally and domestically, through collective as well as individual actions.

► To follow up on the G20's development commitments – in accordance with the mandate from the 2013 *St. Petersburg Development Outlook* – the DWG prepares accountability reports. In 2014 an *Accountability Framework* was adopted to structure a transparent accountability process. According to this framework, every three years a *Comprehensive Accountability Report (CAR)* of the DWG shall be prepared, the last of which was completed in 2016. In the years in between, the DWG publishes an *Annual Progress Report (APR)*. The 2017 DWG APR in year one after the adoption of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda tracks all active core G20 development commitments, but it also presents progress on other selected 2030 Agenda-positive G20 commitments.

Of the 31 development commitments originating in the DWG considered to be active (i.e. not having been completed by the G20), 3 were now considered complete and 28 to be on track. The extended list of pillars of G20 action areas with respect to development mirrors the range of issues that are related to development and can only support development if tackled together, particularly in low-income and developing countries. The actions taken in these action areas and those that are underway show the increased responsibility that the G20 has assumed, not only for its own domestic and collective challenges, but also for those of the global community.

With its Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda, the G20 has committed to further align its work with the 2030 Agenda by taking concrete, collective action across its workstreams and working groups. This is reflective of the broadened concept of sustainable development and the principles of universality and coherence of the 2030 Agenda. In 2017, the G20 has prepared a “Hamburg Update” on the Action Plan, which contains a comprehensive list of 2030 Agenda-positive G20 actions.



↑ Planning freshwater infrastructure (Zanzibar, Tanzania)

In order to more comprehensively follow up on the G20's efforts towards sustainable development, this 2017 DWG APR for the first time presents progress on selected commitments by the G20 that originate from other workstreams and working groups, or have an overarching nature and are directly related to the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by the G20. One of these areas is the core cross-cutting topic of sustainability in its three dimensions: economic, social, and environmental. The other is the global tax agenda and the G20's role in it – a policy area in which action is paramount to ensuring tax justice, fighting inequality, and financing sustainable development.

In the areas of environmental and social sustainability, the G20 has agreed on important positions. The steps it has taken so far are notable but do not seem sufficient to deliver the intended ambition. To fulfil its 2013 commitment to address climate change and environment protection, the G20 has worked within its Green Finance Study Group (GFSG) and Energy Sustainability Working Group (ESWG) towards the aims



of the Paris Agreement to limit global warming. The GFSG has worked towards identifying policy options to foster private green investment, while the ESWG has developed plans and mechanisms to transform energy systems to decrease greenhouse gas emissions and environmental pollution. With these efforts, the G20 has taken first steps towards contributing to limit global warming and ensuring environmental sustainability.

As an example of the G20's commitment to ensure social sustainability, its activities towards the goal of reducing the gap in participation rates between men and women in G20 countries by 25 % by 2025 that it declared in 2014 are illustrated. While the gap has only slightly narrowed since then, besides national policies that are already being taken, the G20 Employment Working Group is proposing a holistic policy approach that concentrates on labour market policies.

In order to achieve economic sustainability, the G20 has identified the support of small and medium-sized [▶](#)



↑ Women serving lunch at a daycare facility (Cotonou, Benin)

enterprises (SMEs) as a key policy tool and, in 2014, committed to work towards the improvement of access to financial markets for SMEs. The G20's Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPII) has – through its SME Finance Subgroup jointly with the G20 Infrastructure and Investment Working Group – prepared a *G20 Action Plan on SME Financing*, supplemented by an Implementation Framework. The SME Finance Subgroup of the GPII aims at increased knowledge-sharing and implementation between G20 countries and with non-G20 countries.

With regard to the global tax agenda, the G20 has – jointly with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and other international organisations – advanced a major programme towards global coordination in tax matters. The G20 can show substantial results here, but even more gains are to be made. The project against Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) puts forward 15 Action Points that shall fight tax avoidance by multinational corporations. Through its Inclusive Framework, the BEPS measures will be adopted and implemented by 99 countries and jurisdictions, over



↑ Solar power generation for agricultural irrigation systems (Betal Para, Bangladesh)

half of which are developing countries. Furthermore, a Common Reporting Standard (CRS) for tax-relevant information has been developed, which is an important step to facilitate the exchange of information between (so far) 100 implementing countries and jurisdictions. These programmes are supported by manifold initiatives of capacity-building by international organisations that are supported by G20 countries to increase implementing and negotiating capacities, also in non-G20 and low-income countries.

The follow-up on the work of the DWG in such diverse areas as infrastructure and domestic resource mobilisation – but also accounting for the G20's efforts with regard to its commitments towards economic, social, and environmental sustainability and the global tax agenda – shows how the G20 already contributes to sustainable development, and where there is still need for further action. Thus, this Annual Progress Report 2017 of the DWG is an important stocktaking of the G20's sustainable development agenda and its contributions to achieving the Sustainable Development Goals of the 2030 Agenda. ●



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