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Y20 Australia 2014 Delegates' Declaration

Tuesday, 15 July 2014

We, the delegates of the 2014 G20 Youth Summit;
Convened in Sydney on 12-15 July 2014 to discuss growth and job creation, global citizenship and mobility, and sustainable development;
Welcomed the Australian Presidency's support for engaging youth in G20 decision making;
Adopted the policy recommendations contained in this Communique by majority support – in addition to three priority policy recommendations in June – having developed them in committees and sought to accommodate the views of all delegates.

We therefore propose that G20 leaders:

Improve economic incentives to promote youth employment and investment by:

- Providing economic and regulatory incentives (such as tax and credit incentives) based on each country's specific needs through a collaboration of governments, banks, and the private sector for employers hiring youth in full-time positions or in structured and paid internships.
- Increasing public investment in gender inclusive, resilient and sustainable infrastructure and promoting the creation of Special Economic Zones to foster growth through development banks and public private partnerships.

Promote balanced economic growth by enhancing rural areas' development with a youth-centric approach through:

- Building the capacity of youth especially in rural areas by focusing on skill development, vocational education and apprenticeships to match the labour demand of local enterprises.
- Creating partnerships with academic, industrial and technological hubs, and the private sector to enhance knowledge transfer with mentorship programmes for young entrepreneurs and inputs for educational curriculum design.
- Promoting investment in labour intensive industries (such as agriculture) that employ youth in rural areas and creating a supportive rural-urban linkage through reliable infrastructure.

Enhance coordination of the public and private sectors to promote economic opportunities and access to capital for SMEs and youth entrepreneurs by:

- Decreasing cost of financing and fostering access to complementary financing channels by (i) supporting the creation of SME fund portfolios; (ii) promoting microcredit and crowd-funding.

- Encouraging and incentivising SMEs in achieving sustainable growth practices through (i) tax breaks to increase R&D and innovation; (ii) non-financial ratings with emphasis on participation of youth, women and vulnerable groups.
- Facilitating trade within domestic economies and international markets (e.g. youth commerce chambers, development banks).

Ensure an inclusive and fair labour market based on upheld social standards as well as a stronger participation of women in the workforce by:

- Working towards a set of non-discriminatory welfare standards (minimum wage, pension and unemployment insurance).
- Committing to prevent the abuse of irregular employment especially within temporary work and sub-contractual employment.
- Ensuring equal opportunities for economic participation of women across sectors within both the developed and the developing world; encouraging flexible working arrangements and supporting facilities that cater to mothers and young families.

Strengthen states' capacity to face the financial and fiscal challenges ahead by:

- Addressing the negative impacts of speculative financial transactions on growth and employment,
- by: (i) Evaluating the risk of non-banking financial institutions and developing prudential requirements; (ii) Fostering transparency and competition among CRAs; (iii) Ensuring the sustainability of sovereign debt restructuring processes by discouraging predatory transactions (e.g. vulture funds).
- Tackling anti-competitive behaviours, including: preventing tax-evasion-planning by implementing common accounting standards, putting collective pressure on non-cooperative jurisdictions and increasing transparency related to international taxable transactions and corporate ownership.

Promote labour mobility through social security agreements to:

- Ensure access to affordable healthcare for migrant workers who have satisfied minimum eligibility requirements.
- Increase and simplify portability of pensions between countries.

Prioritise initiatives to enhance access to global education and skills training, through:

- Strengthening the B20/G20 Global Apprenticeship Network in order to provide relevant education and skills development and match youth with prospective employers.
- Developing governmental and public-private programmes through which financial and visa assistance for education is provided to qualifying students in exchange for a commitment to work for the home country sponsor for an agreed period of time.

Create a framework to address barriers to the labour mobility of students and young professionals across the globe, including:

- Accreditation of educational qualifications and diplomas, content of courses, grading systems and an information portal for jobs skills requirements.
- Making visa procedures simple, transparent, objective and non-discriminatory through electronic applications with reduced costs.

Promote open and fair internet access and encourage e-learning through:

- Ensuring that access to the internet is extended, with education on internet use secured, in particular to youth.
- Developing online courses based on local labour requirements with the support of increased public and private funding.
- Committing to net neutrality laws, which guarantee the internet's power to connect, inform and empower by ensuring internet providers do not discriminate, and that no byte of information is prioritised over another, as long as the content is compliant with national legislation.

Promote political and social engagement by developing and strengthening mechanisms through which youth can participate in and influence decision-making processes, including by:

- Institutionalising youth engagement forums at the local, regional and national levels, including youth representation in public policy deliberations.
- Promoting cooperation between official G20 engagement groups.
- Enhancing continuity and accountability between past, current, and future presidencies of the Y20 through supporting a troika system

Mainstream sustainable development within the three integrated dimensions in all G20 committees and policy outcomes, including in collaboration with the private sector and civil society by:

- Endorsing Sustainable Development Goals as a universally relevant agenda based on the principle of Common but Differentiated Responsibilities with goals aimed at poverty eradication and sustainable development reform, and inclusion of vulnerable groups.
- Supporting the design and effective national implementation of curricula based on sustainable development at all levels of education and vocational learning, incorporating innovative models.
- Streamlining gender across the G20 focal areas, with the understanding that women's empowerment is key to sustainable development, job creation and driving economic growth.
- Integrating the UN vulnerability index with GDP to create a more holistic national indicator of inequity and economic growth.

Close the global infrastructure gap by:

- Developing national strategies for responsible and safe waste management, monitoring and reduction at all levels (production, post-production, and consumption).

- Paying special attention to guaranteeing access for vulnerable groups, especially in ensuring opportunities for local economic stimulation and transformation.
- Creating an equitable assessment of vulnerability, such as through the eight measures of the UN Vulnerability Index.
- Including local governments, indigenous groups and civil society as partners for efficient investment management.

Promote food production systems and trade liberalisation that achieve sustainable development and ensures food security and safety by:

- Protecting small and medium scale farming from land grabbing and support them via research on sustainable and resource-efficient methods, for example by ensuring equitable allocation of adequate resources (land, water, agri-inputs).
- Promoting investment for research and providing educational and technological facilities to disseminate this research.
- Promoting the rediscovery of local, native and traditional varieties of plants, species and seeds and ensuring universal, low-cost access to safeguard biodiversity and reducing transportation and storage pollution.
- Securing free and universal access to safe water and establishing efficient water management policies for food production systems.

Recognise the importance of universal access to efficient, secure and sustainable energy sources to ensure a basic standard of living, a competitive economy and the mitigation of climate change, in accordance with national priorities by:

- Removing or redirecting policies that increase the economic, environmental and social costs of
- producing and supplying energy to household, farming and industrial consumers.
- Demonstrating leadership by reviewing national energy policies, promoting renewable energy and increasing energy efficiency in public procurement and supporting entrepreneurs to develop innovative low-impact energy solutions.
- Increasing the efficiency of the energy supply chain, particularly in urban areas.
- Expanding energy access in rural areas and least developed regions.
- Encouraging diversification of national energy sources through R&D for increasing the efficiency and safety of conventional energy production and development of new energy sources.

Implement Disaster Risk Management adaptation measures by:

- Increasing financing, with regard to national capacity, for Disaster Risk Management (DRM); forging partnerships with urban centres and local populations for job creation and growth; and supporting recovery from and mitigation of unavoidable natural disasters – particularly for the urban poor, minority groups and countries in special situations.
- Developing a DRM financing mechanism by establishing sustainable and disaster-proof infrastructure and improving access to recovery funds for groups vulnerable to disaster.

- Supporting platforms that facilitate the exchange of relevant knowledge (in accordance with intellectual property rights) and risk assessment with regards to DRM and infrastructure development.
- Create a tangible international strategy and domestic recognition for climate change displacement, particularly for Small Island Developing States.