



Inter-Parliamentary Union
For democracy. For everyone.

6th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit Tokyo, November 4, 2019

We, the Speakers of Parliaments of the G20 member and guest countries, meeting in Tokyo on November 4, 2019, in the context of the 2019 G20 Leaders' Summit at the invitation of the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan and the Inter-Parliamentary Union (IPU), issue the following

JOINT STATEMENT

1. We note that the G20, which brings together the leaders of the world's major economies, has widened its agenda to include crucial global issues such as new technologies, digitalization, the macroeconomic implications of ageing, gender equality, food security, energy, climate change, health, terrorism, migration and refugee protection, while retaining its initial focus on economic growth and sustainable development.
2. We welcome the comprehensive and pluralistic dialogue the G20 maintains with representatives of various stakeholders. In the run-up to the G20 Osaka Summit, G20 Engagement Groups, composed of representatives from business, labor, science, youth, women and other sectors, submitted recommendations on a wide variety of issues.
3. We encourage G20 leaders to make good on their commitment to actively pursue their objective of strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. Common solutions must be found to the common challenges facing the global community, all with a firm commitment to peace, democracy, prosperity and human well-being for all. Preserving and strengthening the multilateral system, with the United Nations at its core, must be a key priority for the G20.
4. As people's representatives, who perform the core functions of law-making, budgeting and oversight, parliamentarians must contribute substantively to the G20 process. The voice of our parliaments needs to be heard at international meetings, such as the G20, to help address a persistent democracy gap in international relations.
5. When the G20 Summit was launched in 2008, the world faced a major financial and economic crisis. Resolute joint action by the major economies, both developed and developing, helped avert a dangerous global recession. The world continues to face considerable challenges and risks. We urge the G20 to mobilize the political will to identify and implement lasting solutions. This can only be done with the full engagement of our national parliaments.
6. We are deeply concerned about the state of a global economy that remains profoundly imbalanced in terms of social, developmental and environmental impact. We need to rethink our economies and better harness the opportunities that arise from a green economy perspective, including circular economies, sharing economies and solidarity economies. This will require, among other things, significant investment in green infrastructure and energy efficiency, laws to promote sustainable production and consumption practices, labor market reforms to support worker adjustment, integrated policies to reduce inequality, sustainable and modern tax systems, stronger financial regulation to curb speculation, and the institutionalization of environmental accounting in both public and private sectors. Above all, economic policies must look beyond gross domestic product and be guided by more comprehensive measures of progress and human well-being.
7. We reaffirm that the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) constitute a roadmap for fair, equitable and sustainable development. Noting that stronger and more effective parliaments will have to play a central role in the implementation of the SDGs, we call for greater efforts to increase the capacity of our respective parliaments to transform these global commitments into national realities. We will also seek to enhance international collaboration and solidarity in achieving these shared objectives, including through active parliamentary engagement in the United Nations High-level Political Forum, the main international mechanism for monitoring the SDGs.

8. We underline the particular significance of SDG 16, which recognizes the importance of effective institutions, including parliaments, for the realization of the entire set of SDGs. We recall that parliaments are a central part of a state mechanism that aims to ensure that public policy focuses constantly on the well-being of the people, and to have the ability to take corrective action where necessary. We therefore commit ourselves to renewing efforts to make our parliaments ever more representative, open and transparent, accessible, accountable and effective. We also call on governments and parliaments to work together to enhance public participation in decision-making at all levels, thus ensuring that public policies meet the needs of all people and leave no one behind.

9. We reaffirm our commitment to continue to combat corruption in all its forms, to deny safe haven to corrupt persons and their corruption proceeds, and ensure open, transparent and accountable governance at all levels. To this end, we will support the enactment of legislation, including anti-corruption measures, which will foster renewed confidence of the people in their institutions and generally help advance Goal 16 of the SDGs for peaceful societies and good governance.

10. We believe that multilateralism remains our best option to maintain peace and achieve sustainable development. We believe that a rules-based, open, transparent, fair and non-discriminatory multilateral trading system, respected by all, plays an important role in promoting prosperity and sustainable development. All countries should refrain from protectionist measures and all trade practices that are inconsistent with the rules of the World Trade Organization (WTO), as these undermine the entire multilateral trade regime. Tariffs and non-tariff measures should never be imposed arbitrarily or unilaterally based on political objectives.

11. We agree that the multilateral trading system is currently falling short of its objectives, and that the WTO needs to be reformed. We acknowledge the G20's renewed commitment to WTO reform to help maintain global trade norms and to create new ones that reflect the reality of the evolving global economy. We call for discussions to accelerate in order to keep the WTO's dispute settlement system fully operational. Sustainable development must be at the heart of multilateral trade negotiations and efforts must be devoted to developing and least developed countries, with a special focus on the concerns and interests of farmers as well as of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises as creators of jobs and engines for innovation.

12. Globalization has lifted millions out of poverty, bringing growth and development. But there remains a segment of the population that has not fully benefited, and we are confronted by growing inequality. In order to achieve a fairer distribution of income and wealth, we recognize the importance of adopting appropriate fiscal, wage and social-protection policies. This is a challenge that governments and parliaments must address together in a spirit of solidarity and cooperation.

13. As parliamentarians, we must also play our part in fostering an environment where science, technology and innovation make positive contributions to peace, development and human well-being, while simultaneously limiting or mitigating associated risks and protecting the planet.

14. While acknowledging the evident benefits of innovation and technology, we are nonetheless concerned about the potentially negative impacts of digitalization, robotization, automation, nanotechnology and other forms of technological innovation on employment and on human well-being. We urge the G20 to harness technology such as artificial intelligence and the Internet of things in order to enhance productivity and inclusive growth and to achieve a human-centered society, while addressing wealth-distribution challenges by supporting workers and communities during transitions and by ensuring that access to and the benefits of technology are shared fairly within society.

15. We advocate for decent work and stronger safety nets to ease the transition of displaced workers to new jobs, in keeping with SDG 8, which aims to promote full employment and decent work for all. We also call for an adequate and up-to-date regulatory framework and special measures to help young people, displaced older workers and people with disabilities enter the labor market as entrepreneurs or workers. We should keep in mind that demographic changes in countries around the world need not adversely affect the productivity and financial sustainability of social security systems. For example, investment in human capital in order to increase longevity and population surplus, coupled with the promotion of smooth and appropriate labor mobility, can help alleviate the impact of declining labor forces and working populations. We expect the G20 to continue deepening discussion on these challenges.

16. We encourage G20 leaders to promote the secure and orderly flow of information across borders and allow Internet users to lawfully access online information, knowledge and services. We note the ongoing discussions to harness the potential of digital economies, particularly with regard to data flow and electronic commerce. We recognize that privacy and personal data protection must be observed in order to strengthen confidence and trust in the digital economy.

17. Quality infrastructure is a key driver of economic prosperity, sustainable development and inclusive growth. We welcome the G20 Principles for Quality Infrastructure Investment, endorsed at the G20 Osaka Summit, which include transparency, openness, economic efficiency, sustainable growth and the strengthening of infrastructure governance. In particular, we emphasize the importance placed on quality infrastructure investment and welcome attempts to address a persistent infrastructure financing gap in developing countries. The unique challenges facing Africa and low-income developing countries remain a significant concern.

18. We welcome the G20's renewed commitment to promoting gender equality in line with SDG 5 and to pursuing the Brisbane Goal, which aims to reduce the gender gap in labor force participation by 25% by 2025, and we support the G20's expressed determination to end all forms of discrimination against women and girls as well as gender-based violence. We acknowledge the importance of the recently adopted Convention Concerning the Elimination of Violence and Harassment in the World of Work. We also welcome the private sector alliance for the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (EMPOWER) mentioned in the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration. We are convinced that gender equality and women's empowerment lead to greater prosperity and sustainable development for the whole of society, and we are committed to actively promoting women's access to leadership and decision-making positions. As parliamentary leaders, we pledge to lead by example and make sure that our respective parliaments are indeed gender-sensitive institutions.

19. Our world is facing the reality of climate change, and this needs to be addressed urgently and effectively. We recognize that our parliaments in particular bear a significant responsibility to turn the tide, and for that we must take determined action. We note the G20's call for greater investment in sustainable energy sources, clean energy technologies, and infrastructure. Addressing climate change is critical to the achievement of the SDGs. We therefore highlight the importance of long-term strategies conducive to low-emission economies, supported by public-private partnerships and breakthrough innovation.

20. We welcome the focus placed by the G20 on measures against marine pollution, particularly marine plastic litter. We welcome the Osaka Blue Ocean Vision, which was shared at the G20 and aims to reduce additional pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050, and we recognize that parliaments have a key role in promoting policies to realize it. Effective action will also require technical and human support for developing countries.

21. Substantial inequities in access to health care persist within as well as between countries. Vulnerable populations face a higher burden of morbidity and premature mortality from easily preventable and treatable causes. Prevention (including through systematic vaccination campaigns), health promotion, treatment, and quality health care for all generations are essential for sustainable development and economic growth. Acknowledging the linkages among health, economic growth and productivity, we welcome the adoption this year of the UN Political Declaration and of the IPU Resolution on universal health coverage (UHC), which also includes universal access to reproductive health care, and commit to their effective implementation.

22. We welcome the commitment of the G20 to continue dialogue on the various dimensions of displacement and migration. We stress that the ongoing refugee crisis is of global concern, with major political, social, economic and humanitarian consequences. We underscore the responsibility of the international community to take joint action to address the conditions conducive to migration and displacement, and to share the burden in relieving the suffering of refugees and displaced persons.

23. We reaffirm our strong support to combatting extremism, xenophobia and terrorism in all their forms and manifestations, as these can severely undermine world peace and security and endanger our ongoing efforts to strengthen the global economy and ensure sustainable growth and development. We are fully aware of the essential role of parliaments in this respect and urge the G20 to step up joint efforts in fighting these threats.

24. In order to accurately capture newly emerging policy issues against a backdrop of deepening international interdependence and rapid social change, to strike the right balance between protecting people's rights and interests and economic, social, scientific, technological and other developments, and to create appropriate legal frameworks, we, parliamentarians, undertake to scale up our efforts to further improve parliaments' survey and research capabilities. We urge the IPU to provide world parliamentarians with the expertise to tackle emerging issues and the opportunity for different countries to share experiences.

25. This Parliamentary Speakers' Summit is built on the experience gained at the 2018 Summit in Buenos Aires and at earlier G20 parliamentary Speakers' consultations that were first initiated by the Senate of Canada in 2010. We reaffirm our commitment to continue our joint work in the context of the G20, as an important step to address the democracy gap in international relations and enrich the G20 process. We therefore call upon the G20 leaders to recognize the Speakers' Summit (P20) as a parliamentary contribution to the overall G20 process. We, in turn, will communicate this Joint Statement to our respective Heads of State and Government and engage in the implementation of our shared commitments.

26. We thank the House of Councillors of the National Diet of Japan both for hosting the 6th G20 Parliamentary Speakers' Summit and for its warm hospitality. We ask the IPU to continue its role in maintaining the P20 framework into the future, as we look forward to meeting again in 2020.