



Engaging Diverse Voices in the G20 U.S. for Better Policymaking and Action in Uncertain Times

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Ford Foundation Center for Social Justice | New York City



During United Nations General Assembly High-Level Week, the [T20 U.S.](#) hosted a two-part panel event, titled “**Engaging Diverse Voices in the G20 U.S. for Better Policymaking and Action in Uncertain Times.**” It served as a direct precursor to the T20 U.S. Summit in New York, planned for 18-19 November 2026, surfacing policy priorities and coordination opportunities that will carry forward into the Summit’s discussions. The 90-minute hybrid dialogue brought together four G20 Sherpas and seven representatives from the Business 20 (B20), Civil Society 20 (C20), Labor 20 (L20), Women 20 (W20), Values 20 (V20), Youth 20 (Y20), and the Philanthropic 20 (P20) to reflect on policy priorities brought from the past four G20 presidencies and identifying opportunities for greater coordination and collective action during the G20 U.S. presidency. Participants also looked beyond the U.S. presidency to the United Kingdom's G20 presidency in 2027 (*see, for instance, Nicolas Buchoud’s Policy Solution on “[The G20 in 2026–2028: The End of the 2030 Agenda? A Proposal for Universal Track 1.5 Space on Post-2030 Development Cooperation](#)”*)

Summary:

In the first segment of the dialogue, G20 Sherpas reflected on policy ideas coalesced around during the past four G20 presidencies led by South Africa, Brazil, India, and Indonesia, respectively. These include those meriting continued attention this year and beyond, such as global economic security, inclusive digital transformation, global imbalances, a just energy transition, building resilient critical minerals supply chains, reform of the international financial architecture, debt sustainability and the fight against inequality. The discussion emphasized that the G20’s value often stems from its role as a link between governments, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders, while also noting that engagement groups must strive to deliver specific and tangible policy outcomes throughout the process. The UN Sherpa remarked that his participation in the G20 process can bring an element of universality to the table by giving a voice to the countries not included in the G20 network.

In the dialogue’s second segment, G20 engagement group leaders discussed concrete initiatives to make the G20 a dynamic, inclusive platform for addressing global challenges and creating solutions to today’s complex challenges, threats, and opportunities. Topics discussed included AI regulation, food security, gender equality, decent work,

climate and energy resilience, universal healthcare, philanthropic support, digital access, and conflict prevention. Several groups have shifted from broad communiqués toward more focused working groups and providing practical guidance for policymakers. The discussion also stressed the need for continuity, accountability, and greater inclusion of perspectives that may, at times, run counter to a given G20 year's dominant positions. Leaders also discussed measures of success in engaging with the G20, including meaningful inclusion, intergenerational engagement, and continuity across processes and platforms.



Key Recommendations:

Participants recommended the following actions to make the G20 more outcome-driven, inclusive, and continuous:

- **Tie working groups to specific policy outcomes:** The G20 should establish working groups organized around concrete policy results. It should also create mechanisms to track commitments across presidencies so that progress continues beyond any single host year.
- **Create accountability mechanisms:** The G20 should track policy commitments from one presidency to the next to ensure greater accountability and encourage, where necessary, course corrections.
- **Strengthen links between the finance and engagement tracks:** The G20 should improve coordination between its finance track and its informal engagement groups. It should also create official opportunities for engagement groups to bring their recommendations directly to governments.
- **Expand public-private partnerships for digital infrastructure:** Through its Digital Economy Working Group, the G20 should develop shared principles for public-private partnerships in digital infrastructure and call on multilateral development banks to use these principles to mobilize private investment in developing countries, particularly where limited internet access deepens educational and economic divides.
- **Enable flexible philanthropic funding and partnership:** The G20 should encourage member governments to adopt policies that enable flexible, cross-border philanthropic funding, such as streamlined regulatory requirements for grantmaking. It should also establish a regular channel for philanthropic organizations to contribute to its working groups, so that they can act as partners in designing and implementing solutions rather than only as funders.
- **Sustain collaboration between summits through Track 1.5 diplomacy:** The G20 should maintain a Track 1.5 diplomatic platform to encourage governments, experts, engagement groups & stakeholders to work together better between summits.
- **Promote cross-engagement group collaboration and minimize fragmentation:** Engagement groups should work more closely with one another and support intergenerational dialogue. By coordinating their efforts, rather than working in silos, the G20's informal engagement groups can develop a shared vision to present to the G20 and, thereby, strengthen their collective influence.