



## F20 Recommendations to the G20

May, 26<sup>th</sup>, 2023

### G20 and Climate Change – Becoming Part of the Solution

#### Recommendations for the Indian G20 Presidency, 2023



Source: G20 website of the Indian Presidency

#### **What's at stake and what is needed?**

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- Climate Change impacts are escalating in every part of the world—from rapid changes to our atmosphere and oceans, to loss or weakening of glaciers and ice sheets, global warming has also contributed to severe water scarcity for roughly half of the world's population. The IPCC most comprehensive assessment says we are on the brink of exceeding the 1.5°C temperature limit.
- The G7 countries, plus Russia, account for the largest share of historic greenhouse gas emissions. Further, these countries still generate highest per capita emissions today.
- G20 Countries including large economies like China, India and Indonesia have also embarked on emission- intensive trajectories in recent decades due to energy infrastructures that are heavily dependent on coal, oil and gas.
- Most of the G20 countries have also begun to enable large investments into renewable energy manufacturing and deployment. The 'Petersberg Climate Dialogue in May 2023 hosted by Germany urged governments around the world to work on setting ambitious targets for renewable energy that would “ring in the end of the fossil fuel age” and help prevent dangerous global warming.<sup>1</sup>

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<sup>1</sup> <https://apnews.com/article/germany-climate-fossil-fuels-petersberg-cop28-29f627a9a4e1e992264ba0412594fa1d>



- The combined solar and wind potential of the G20 is sufficient to generate over 50 times the current global electricity demand.<sup>2</sup> About 2 percent of the theoretical solar and wind areas could supply the global electricity demand (even under the assumption that the demand will increase significantly over the next 30 years).

**These facts put the group of G20 countries in the driver's seat on a road toward either a planet unliveable for human beings or a future-oriented scenario that keeps average temperature increase below the dangerous benchmark of 1.5°C.** G20 economies are responsible for about 75 to 80 percent of global greenhouse gas emissions (OECD), which means they're uniquely positioned to avert the real risk of overshooting the 1.5 temp tipping point.

**To be clear: Both scenarios are quite possible and leave very little room for speculation. And: Both scenarios require strategic and committed decisions. Decisions to act or decisions to not act.**

**Keeping the global temperature increase below the dangerous benchmark of 1.5°C is still possible. Technically as well as economically possible. And as complex the goal of this journey may be - we basically 'only' need to do three things:**

- **Stop burning fossil fuels for thermal and electricity-based energy services and replace it with renewable sources**
- **Protect and restore nature**
- **Make our food healthier and more sustainable**

## **Global transformative Cooperation: Building the Necessary Political Will**

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The group of the G20 represents a diverse group of countries with very different starting points concerning energy infrastructure, development trajectories, per capita emissions, or historic contributions to total emissions and hence their impacts on climate change. There is an opportunity for a well-coordinated international response to climate change and ecological degradation with Japan and India hosting the G7 and the G20 summits this year and the United Arab Emirates (UAE) as president of the Climate (COP28), particularly in the lead up to the high-level meetings of the G20 as well as the UN Secretary General's Climate Ambition Summit, the SDG Summit and COP28.

For instance, India's per capita emissions of greenhouse gases are only about a third of global average and roughly one fifth of average per capita emissions of the G7 countries.

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<sup>2</sup> F20 Report, 2022, Renewable Target Setting by the G20 [https://wwwFOUNDATIONS-20.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/F20\\_Renewable-Energy-Target-Mapping\\_G20.pdf](https://wwwFOUNDATIONS-20.org/wp-content/uploads/2022/08/F20_Renewable-Energy-Target-Mapping_G20.pdf)



## **Progress for One Earth, One Family, One Future for all**

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We very much welcome the following recent milestone achievements:

- **The rise of renewable energy across the globe** thanks to stronger local policies and economies of scale. In many cases, renewables are the cheapest option. This trend has fuelled a sharp acceleration in installations of renewables and has helped to push green energy to record levels.<sup>3</sup>
- **End Plastic Pollution:** A historic resolution was endorsed by the UN Environment Assembly (UNEA-5) in Nairobi to end plastic pollution and forge an international legally binding agreement by 2024.
- **The Climate Conference of the Parties (COP27) in Sharm El-Sheikh, Egypt** concluded with a breakthrough agreement on a new **Loss and Damage Fund** for nations most vulnerable to the climate crisis. As details on the establishment and operationalisation remained open, the G20 are called upon to seize the momentum and their political and economic weight to help determine who should pay into the fund, define where the money will come from, and which vulnerable countries will be eligible for this kind of international support.
- **The United Nations Biodiversity Conference (COP15) in Montreal, Canada** ended with a successful deal to protect nature and guarantee the protection of at least 30 percent of of land and 30% of sea by 2030. G20 countries need to further strengthen their Nature-based solutions to the Paris Agreement and put nature conservation and biodiversity protection at the heart of their national policies.
- Following almost two decades of negotiations, the international community achieved an unprecedented agreement to protect the world's oceans.<sup>4</sup> The **High Seas Treaty** will help place 30 percent of the seas into protected areas by 2030 (provided the ratification by at least 60 member countries) , to safeguard marine nature. Warmer oceans, rising sea levels and ocean acidification are putting severe pressure on marine ecosystems and will in the long run affect the livelihoods of billions of people and the planet. Therefore, the G20 are called upon to put in place policies and enhance legislation that protect our oceans to serve the global climate goals.

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<sup>3</sup> IEA (2022), Renewable power's growth is being turbocharged as countries seek to strengthen energy security, <https://www.iea.org/news/renewable-power-s-growth-is-being-turbocharged-as-countries-seek-to-strengthen-energy-security> , [16 March 2023 new].

<sup>4</sup> The Guardian (2023), High seas treaty: historic deal to protect international waters finally reached at UN , <https://www.theguardian.com/environment/2023/mar/05/high-seas-treaty-agreement-to-protect-international-waters-finally-reached-at-un> , [16 March 2023].



**The G20 countries (and the G7 as a subgroup of the G20) are strongly encouraged to throw their political and economic weight behind these significant milestones and their implementation, while galvanizing international support for the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs, which are our roadmap for resilience.**

### **Concrete Policy Recommendations:**

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The following **F20 Recommendations** are written in the spirit of ongoing G20 negotiations this year. Proposed actions are based on the F20 mission statement. They are not exhaustive with regard to themes and subjects discussed by the G7 and the G20 and complementary to the recommendations made by the Think Tanks (T20), Business (B20), Civil Society (C20), Urban 20 (U20), Youth (Y20), Science (S20), Labour (L20) and Women (W20).

#### **1. Making Mission LiFE a success story of the G20**

**With India being the world's fastest growing major economy and presiding the G20 this year, we call upon the Indian government to seize this important global opportunity to aim for unlocking new G20 growth strategies that will yield systemic change, respecting planetary boundaries and increased resilience of communities and cities.** We therefore welcome India's approach on **LiFE (Lifestyle for Environment)** as an important point of departure. Stepping up investments, driving innovation, and translating action into robust policies, will help embed circularity within our individual and collective consumption patterns, and to accelerate the green transition (green industry) in important areas such as construction and mobility. We therefore suggest the establishment of a G20-Mission LiFE Task Force to develop concrete policy-recommendations and implementation plans. In order to drive sustainability in line with our planetary boundaries, we need more ambition in fostering circular economy measures, rethinking resource efficiency and redefining growth. Such a transformative pathway will entail social, environmental and economic benefits and promote decent living for all.

#### **2. Advancing Community Resilience**

**We call upon G20 leaders to devote greater attention to the most vulnerable countries and communities hit most by the climate crisis and to provide sufficient financial resources to increase community resilience.** We acknowledge that climate change exacerbates existential risks for the most vulnerable communities amongst us. The G20 as multilateral forum must integrate community voices in the process of planning and developing adaptation, mitigation and resilience efforts. We underscore the need to overcome any *either/or thinking* and embrace the intersectionality of climate by fighting poverty and food security, providing access to clean water, sanitation, and safe housing and increasing health and promoting education to ensure



everyone on this planet a decent living. We recognize that climate justice remains closely linked to gender equity and discrimination. Given their political power and economic reach, G20 countries are called upon to accelerate efforts in strengthening diversity and social inclusion, in line with the 2030 Agenda and its SDGs.

3. **Set a G20 share of 70% of the renewable energy target by 2030**

**We are adamant that a G20 renewable energy power generation target of 70% by 2030 is based on science and provides credibility to long-term decarbonisation goals.** We encourage G20 leaders to turbocharge the development, deployment and supply of renewable energy sources by agreeing on concrete implementation roadmaps. We recommend to provide IEA in cooperation with OECD and IRENA with a mandate to further analyse how to get there.

On G20 territory, technical solar potential under space-constrained conditions – excluding protected areas, urban areas, and infrastructure such as roads – is estimated at 36.8 million km<sup>2</sup> or 924,000 GW. The onshore wind potential of the G20 is smaller than the solar potential but is nonetheless able to generate 18 times the current global electricity demand. Under the assumption that an average wind turbine operates with a capacity factor of 34% (3,000 h/a), the wind potential of the G20 should have the generation capacity of 553,000 TWh.

4. **Energy Transition Partnerships**

**Establish new and strengthen existing Just Energy Transition Partnerships whilst agreeing on principles and concrete interim targets by 2030 to advance the Just Transition across the globe.** Building on the continuity of the G20 process as a multilateral forum, G20 leaders are urged to hold up the positive outcome of the Bali Energy Transition Roadmap of 2022 on energy accessibility, scaling up smart and clean energy technologies, advancing clean energy financing, and to manifest clear targets to accelerate the process.

To charter a roadmap for a regenerative future and ensure no one is left behind, the active involvement of different stakeholders remains of utmost importance. The stakeholders include local communities and indigenous people, women, and representatives from academia, the private sector, and civil society. Apart from the active involvement of key stakeholders including civil society and the acceleration of public private partnerships to provide more financial resources, we underscore the need to revisit potential technical and legal barriers to turbocharge the Just Energy Transition.

5. **Protect nature and environment**

**Protect 30 percent landmass and 30 percent of the world's oceans by 2030 to build resilience, prevent biodiversity loss and safeguard the livelihoods of**



**billions of people across the world.** Pollution and the conversion of forests to alternative land uses exacerbates the degradation of vital ecosystems and causes biodiversity loss with dire consequences for life on earth and below water.

We call upon G20 Heads of State to demonstrate far-thinking leadership and make more resources available for ecosystem preservation and land restoration. We welcome multilateral efforts such as the international alliance by Brazil, Indonesia and Congo to safeguard critical ecosystems such as tropical forests, to cooperate on bioeconomy, advance Nature-based Solutions and conserve forest carbon stocks. Likewise, protecting our oceans through marine protected areas will be pivotal for ensuring life on earth for future generations. Before the High Seas Treaty will enter into force, G20 countries are called upon to take the lead and already put limits on fishing, shipping routes and deep-sea mining in the High Seas to secure the planet's vital ecosystems.

#### **6. Recalling Global Net Zero!**

**Commit to achieve global net zero as reiterated in the Bali declaration of 2022<sup>5</sup> and come to terms with new global realities by ending fossil fuel expansion (*stop making things even worse*), shifting the power grid away from coal, spur the adoption of innovative policies and accelerate national coal phase out plans with concrete deadlines and means.**

Support global carbon pricing as a policy framework and make decarbonisation plans for financial institutions mandatory at both UN and national levels.

With the Climate Club as an international initiative grounded in openness and cooperation, positive incentives could be set given the transformative power of India and the other G20 countries to fuel a green transformation of industries, open up for collaboration and the tremendous role of green energy such stemming from renewables or green hydrogen to transform industries in particular in energy intensive areas.

#### **7. Shifting the Trillions**

G20 countries and IFIs must deliver climate finance for adaptation and mitigation in a more equitable, sustainable, and accessible way. Make disclosure of climate and nature footprints on financial 'products' (Exchange Trading Funds, balance sheets) mandatory. G20 countries should implement binding national regulatory frameworks to initiate the shift in financial flows, building on the Task Force on Climate-related Financial Disclosures (TCFD) and Taskforce on Nature-related Financial Disclosure (TNFD) recommendations. These could include disclosure

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<sup>5</sup> [https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty\\_new/about\\_g20/previous-summit-documents/2022-bali/G20%20Bali%20Leaders%27%20Declaration,%2015-16%20November%202022.pdf](https://www.g20.org/content/dam/gtwenty/gtwenty_new/about_g20/previous-summit-documents/2022-bali/G20%20Bali%20Leaders%27%20Declaration,%2015-16%20November%202022.pdf)



requirements, taxonomies – incl. for transition finance -, and concrete transition plans by financial institutions.

We appreciate efforts of the International Financial Architecture Working Group to develop with the MDBs a G20 Roadmap to implement the recommendations of the G20 Independent Review of MDBs Capital Adequacy Frameworks (CAF). A reform of the global financial architecture to make the international financial institutions fit-for-purpose to be able to respond to the multiple simultaneously occurring crises is indispensable.

Reinforce multilateral efforts to include debt-for-climate-swaps and bilateral as well as multilateral debt relief that would enable developing countries to reduce their external debt while investing in mitigation and adaptation measures. The Special Drawing Rights (SDRs) from the International Monetary Fund (IMF) remain an important lever and these funds should be re-channeled away from high-income countries to lower-income countries as donations rather than loans.

### **Role of Philanthropy:**

As the F20 represents a global group of Foundations, we recognise the important role that philanthropic capital can play in contributing to the Just Transition.

We are encouraged by the recent commitments made by initiatives such as [GEAPP](#), [GAEA](#) and [PAA](#), which demonstrates a significant commitment to unlocking climate philanthropy. These recent initiatives are very positive however philanthropic giving for climate mitigation globally is still estimated to be just 2 percent of overall giving<sup>6</sup> and is even lesser at 1.5% in Asia<sup>7</sup>. Even less philanthropic funding is going towards climate adaptation - with adaptation finance accounting for only 4% to 8% of tracked climate finance between 2017 and 2018 (from \$23 billion to \$46 billion, respectively). Developing countries need \$127 billion per year by 2030 and \$295 billion per year by 2050 to adapt to climate change<sup>8</sup>.

We believe that philanthropy can be a powerful drive for climate action and encourage philanthropists and social investors globally to be ambitious and courageous in their giving in order to match the urgency of the challenges of our time.

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<sup>6</sup> <https://www.climateworks.org/report/funding-trends-2022/>

<sup>7</sup> <https://avpn.asia/insights/climate-philanthropy-in-asia/>

<sup>8</sup> IPCC AR 6 Report



More specifically we encourage philanthropists and social investors to deploy 'catalytic capital'. Capital that is patient, risk-tolerant, concessionary and flexible. Confronting Climate change is indeed an 'all-hands-on-deck' moment, and we need to come to the forefront of climate action by funding ecosystem efforts such as supporting climate solutions incubators and accelerators that can identify and nurture innovative ideas for a sustainable transition to a low carbon economy.

The combination of a systemic approach of working with governments along with the institutionalization of philanthropy within large scale transformative country level initiatives can encourage the acceleration of adoption of such promising solutions.

We encourage collaborative efforts between Global North and Global South Philanthropists and Social Investors to ensure the voice and leadership of communities in the Global South, which experience many of the worst effects of climate change, are central to addressing it.

We also appreciate efforts of national and international philanthropy networks such as AVPN, Philea, IVPC, LATIMPACTO or Wings to increase the awareness and commitment among foundations and philanthropic organisations on climate change.