



por los Derechos Civiles

A large, abstract graphic consisting of overlapping, curved shapes in shades of blue and teal, sweeping across the lower half of the page from left to right.

G20 + C20
+ DIGITAL RIGHTS

Digital Area
Asociación por los Derechos Civiles



por los Derechos Civiles

JULY 2018
<https://adcdigital.org.ar>

With the support of



This guide was produced as part of a project funded by IFEX (International Freedom of Expression Exchange), it is published under a Creative Commons Attribution-NonCommercial-Share Alike license. To see a copy of this license, visit:
<https://creativecommons.org/licenses/by-nc-sa/4.0/>



The guide *G20+C20+Digital Rights* is for public dissemination and is not for commercial purposes.

G20 + C20 + DIGITAL RIGHTS: WHY DOES IT MATTER?

□ G20 & Digitalization

The Group of Twenty (G20) process has not, historically, been a focus for human rights defenders working on digital issues. In part, this was because the G20 has never paid these issues much attention.

Nevertheless, this circumstance has recently changed. Since 2015, references and commitments related to a broad scope of digital rights can be found in each G20 Leaders' Final Declarations (Communiqués¹)

Among others, there are topics like:

- address digital divide,
- broadband access,
- flow of information for economic growth,
- trust and security,
- respect for privacy and personal data protection,
- investment in the ICT sector,
- entrepreneurship,
- digital transformation,
- e-commerce cooperation,
- enhanced digital inclusion,
- development of micro, small and medium-sized enterprises (MSMEs),
- future of work,
- digital literacy and skills,
- consumer protection,
- intellectual property rights,
- transparency.

The G20 host country (or President) in 2017, Germany, put digitalisation and the digital economy at the heart of the G20 agenda for the first time.

Because the G20 was originally convened to address finance and economic policy issues, one of its biggest concerns is the digital economy.

In practical terms, the G20's inclusion of digitalisation means that there was for the first time a ministerial meeting on it and a dedicated working group, or task force, on the digital economy.

¹ Communiqués: Antalya 2015 (bit.ly/antalya15), Hangzhou 2016 (bit.ly/hangzhou16) and Hamburgo 2017 (bit.ly/hamburg17).

Argentina, the host country in 2018, established as one of its three priorities “the future of work”, based on the emergence of new technologies and the development of new forms of work that are rapidly changing production processes worldwide. It also kept the Digital Economy Task Force (DETF) and scheduled in the 2018 G20 annual agenda two meetings for the Task Force (February and July) and one Ministerial Meeting on Digital Economy (August). The DETF priorities, under the Argentina presidency, are as follows:

- Digital inclusion
- Future job skills
- Digital government
- SMEs & entrepreneurship
- Industry 4.0 & agricultural technology

□ C20 & Digital Rights - Digitalization

The most established civil society mechanism for influencing the G20 is the C20. It is a very open mechanism: any civil society group (including those from non-G20 countries) can join it, and it represents a very diverse set of groups working on issues ranging from sustainability, to poverty, to health.

The C20 has not, historically, been very receptive to digital issues (understandably, given the huge range of challenges already covered by groups within it). Since the C20 is the main formal mechanism for civil society input into the G20, representing a significant number of advocates, persuading it to recognise the importance of a rights-respecting approach to digital issues would be a major victory.

At the same time, it offers a real opening for civil society to influence the commitments that G20 members, and its partner bodies, make on a wide-ranging set of digital issues².

Last year, in 2017, CSISAC (or Civil Society Information Society Advisory Council) which is the civil society voice on the OECD’s work on digital issues, took the lead within the C20 in Germany. CSISAC, as a digital rights focused coalition, introduced into the C20, for the first time, concerns related with digital rights.

2 *Navigating human rights in the digital environment: The G20, Global Partners Digital, UK, 2017: bit.ly/navigatinghr*

In 2018 more organizations that advocate for digital rights get involved in the C20 work process. Nevertheless, like said before, given the diverse topics covered by different organizations working in the C20 (for ex: global health; anti-corruption; architecture of the international financial system; environment, climate and energy; gender; investment and infrastructure; education, employment and inclusion) introduce concerns related with digital rights or the digital economy in a comprehensive and holistic way could be challenging.

That is way, so far, the C20 Final Communiqué, which is elaborated by the C20 community and it is given to the G20 Leaders each year to express civil society concerns and recommendations over different topics of interests, does not reflect yet a strong message about digital rights.

To fill this gap, more than 70 organizations across the globe asked through an open letter to the G20 Leaders³, to work collaboratively with leaders from all stakeholder groups to adopt commitments that live up to not just the promise, but also their responsibility to ensure the evolving digital society supports a healthy web ecosystem and puts people first, including concrete requirements about meaningful access, privacy and data protection, freedom of expression, cybersecurity and increased competition.

Involvement of civil society organizations and advocates with expertise on the digital field in G20 + C20 processes is relevant to support a healthy web and a people-centred digital agenda and digital economy.

THE GROUP OF TWENTY

G20 is the most important forum at the global level and pursues the objective of economic, financial and political cooperation among its members. Argentina is in charge of its presidency throughout this year.

It is integrated by the European Union and 19 countries: Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, United Kingdom and United States.

On the other hand, Chile and the Netherlands were invited by Argentina to participate while Spain enjoys the status of permanent guest member. At the same time, four countries attend the forum representing the regional blocs Asean (Singapore), Caricom (Jamaica), Nepad (Senegal) and the African Union (Rwanda).

Each year, when a new country takes over the presidency of the G20, it works closely with the country that held the previous and the country that will hold the next presidency, thus ensuring some continuity in the forum's agenda. This is called "troika".

3 Letter "Let us bring people to the centre of the digital future": bit.ly/G20letter

□ History

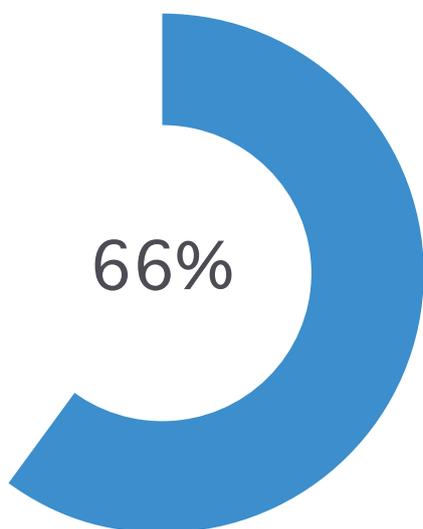
The G20 began as a Forum of Finance Ministers and Central Bank Presidents. It was created on September 25th, 1999, during a meeting of G7 finance ministers (a more exclusive group consisting of Canada, France, Germany, Italy, Japan, the United Kingdom and the United States) to bring in more nations for greater impact.

In the last decade, and with the intention of generating new consensus among top-level officials, the G20 summits have also begun to include meetings at the level of presidents and heads of state.

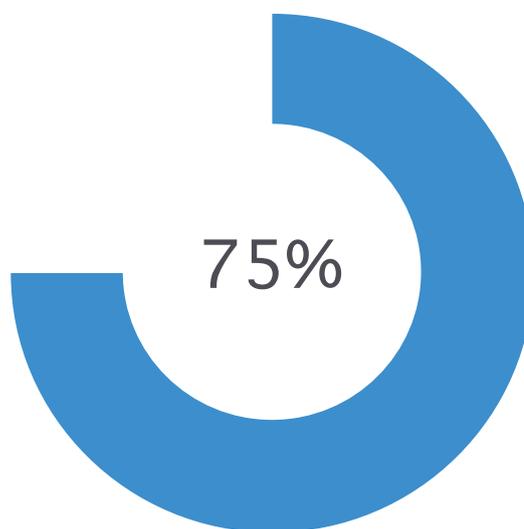
□ Global impact

Overall, G20 members represent 85 per cent of global gross domestic product, two thirds of the world's population, 75 per cent of international trade and 80 per cent of global investment.

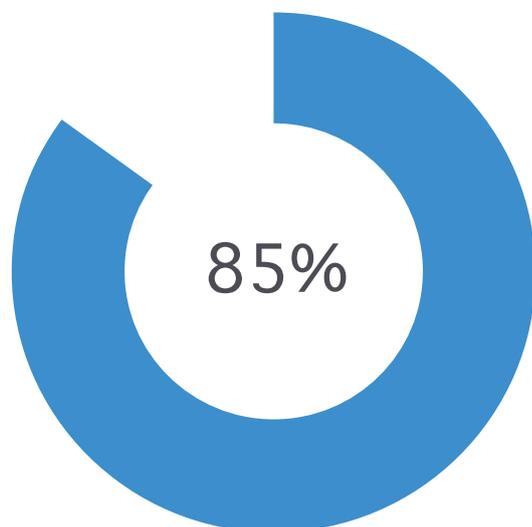
World Population



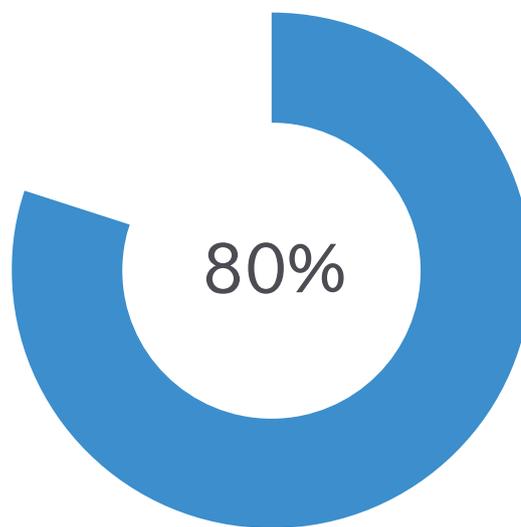
International Trade



Global Gross Product



Global Investments



The G20 debates are further enhanced by the participation of international partner organisations and engagement groups, representing different sectors of civil society.

Thus, the heads of various international organisations are present in the G20: the World Bank, the International Monetary Fund (IMF), the Organisation for Economic Cooperation and Development (OECD), the Inter-American Development Bank (IDB), the Latin American Development Bank (CAF), the World Trade Organisation (WTO), the United Nations Organisation (UNO), the Financial Stability Board (FSB) and the International Labour Organisation (ILO).

At the same time, in parallel with the G20, other engagement groups are developing: Business 20 (B20), made up of business associations; Civil 20 (C20), made up of non-governmental organisations; Labour 20 (L20), which brings together the leaders of international trade unions; Science 20 (S20), which includes the scientific community; Think 20 (T20), made up of various think tanks; Women 20 (W20), made up of women's organisations; and Youth 20 (Y20), which brings together young leaders representing the G20 member states.

□ G20 Argentina in numbers

By the end of the current edition of the G20, it is expected that some 20,000 people will have participated in the various meetings held within the framework of the forum. More than 7,000 people are expected to attend the Leaders' Summit in Buenos Aires on November 30th and December 1st.

It is estimated that the more than 50 G20 meetings to be held before the Summit will be attended by around 13,000 people. From that number:

- More than 600 will be ministers.
- Some 140 will be sherpas (representatives of the G20 leaders).
- About 400 deputies (the second in the hierarchy of ministries).
- 1600 expert officials from the working groups.
- About 8,000 technical advisors.

At the G20 chaired by Argentina, some 54 meetings are expected to take place, 43 of them in the country. For the latter, the National Government created a Technical Unit composed of more than 30 people.

THE CIVIL SOCIETY IN THE G20

In parallel with the development of its main agenda, the G20 seeks to enrich its exchanges by encouraging the participation of civil society through the so-called Engagement Groups. Each of these parallel forums is devoted throughout the year to a theme of global importance, with the aim of establishing a position on it and making recommendations to state leaders in view of the final Communiqué.

□ Engagement Groups

Civil 20

It formally became operational under the Russian presidency (2013). It is composed of non-governmental organizations (NGOs) and leads the sector's link with the G20.

It is defined as “a specific area for civil society in different parts of the world to contribute in a structured and sustained way to the G20, thus ensuring that world leaders listen not only to the voices representing the government and business sector, but also to the proposals and demands of civil society as a whole”.

During the current presidency, it is led by Poder Ciudadano and the Argentine Network for International Cooperation (RACI, for its Spanish acronym).

□ Structure

The Steering Committee

It is formed by Juliana Catania (RACI, Argentina), Pia Marchegiani (FARN, Argentina), Jürgen Maier (German NGO Forum on Environment and Development, Germany), Valeria Milanés (Asociación por los Derechos Civiles, Argentina), Fraser Reilly-King (Canadian Council for International Co-operation, Canada), Pablo Secchi (Poder Ciudadano, Argentina), Martin Tsounkeu (Africa Development Interchange Network, Cameroon) and Hideki Wakabayashi (International Liaison Committee of the 2019 Japan G20 Civil Society Platform, Japan).

The International Advisory Committee

It is formed by Nancy Alexander (Heinrich Böll), Patricia Miranda (Latindad), Maggie Murphy (TI), Gillian Nelson (CAN), Inés Pousadela (CIVICUS) y Steve Price-Thomas (Oxfam).

How C20 works

- It does not have a permanent structure: its presidency is rotating and changes every year.
- It is divided into different specific Working Groups, which address various issues in depth and generate high-level documents that are then presented to the G20.
- Just as the G20 is a global forum, the C20 involves as many local as international organisations.
- As a result of all its work, the C20 produces a final communiqué that is delivered to the G20 authorities during the Civil 20 Summit.

Business 20 (B20)

Created in 2010 under the presidency of Canada, it was the first of the officially recognized engagement groups. It is made up of business associations and is at the forefront of the relationship between the global business community and the G20 leaders. The B20, during the Argentine presidency, is led by Daniel Funes de Rioja, the Argentine Industrial Union (UIA, for its Spanish acronym), the Rural Society, the Chamber of Commerce, the Chamber of Construction, the Stock Exchange and the Association of Private Banks of Argentine Capital.

Labour 20 (L20)

Formally recognised in 2011 under the French Presidency, it brings together the leaders of international trade unions. It became relevant in the wake of the 2008 crisis, when the first G20 Heads of State Summit was held. Under the Argentine presidency, the L20 is led by the Unión Obrera de la Construcción de la República Argentina (UOCRA, for its spanish acronym).

Science 20 (S20)

From a global perspective, it addresses issues related to science. It began to participate formally under the German presidency (2016). During the current edition of the G20 it is led by the National Academy of Exact, Physical and Natural Sciences (ANCEFN, for its spanish acronym), and the Institute of Molecular and Cellular Biology of Rosario.

Think 20 (T20)

It brings together high-level experts from around the world to provide analytical depth to the G20 discussions and to generate ideas that “contribute to concrete and sustainable policies”. Under the Argentine presidency of the G20, this engagement group is led by the Center for the Implementation of Public Policies for Equity and Growth (CIPPEC) and the Argentine Council for International Relations (CARI).

Women 20 (W20)

It began its formal work in 2015, under the Turkish presidency. It brings together the experience of women’s civil society organisations and women’s entrepreneurship organisations. Its aim is to “influence G20 leaders to implement gender equity policies”. During the present edition of the G20, it is led by Susana Balbo.

Youth 20 (Y20)

It brings together young leaders from the G20 countries, helping them “to develop their skills to identify the most urgent economic challenges and opportunities”. It was officially launched under the canadian presidency (2010). During the argentine period it is led by the EIDOS Foundation and AIESEC Argentina.



por los Derechos Civiles

G20 + C20 + DIGITAL RIGHTS

GUIDE FOR JOURNALISTS

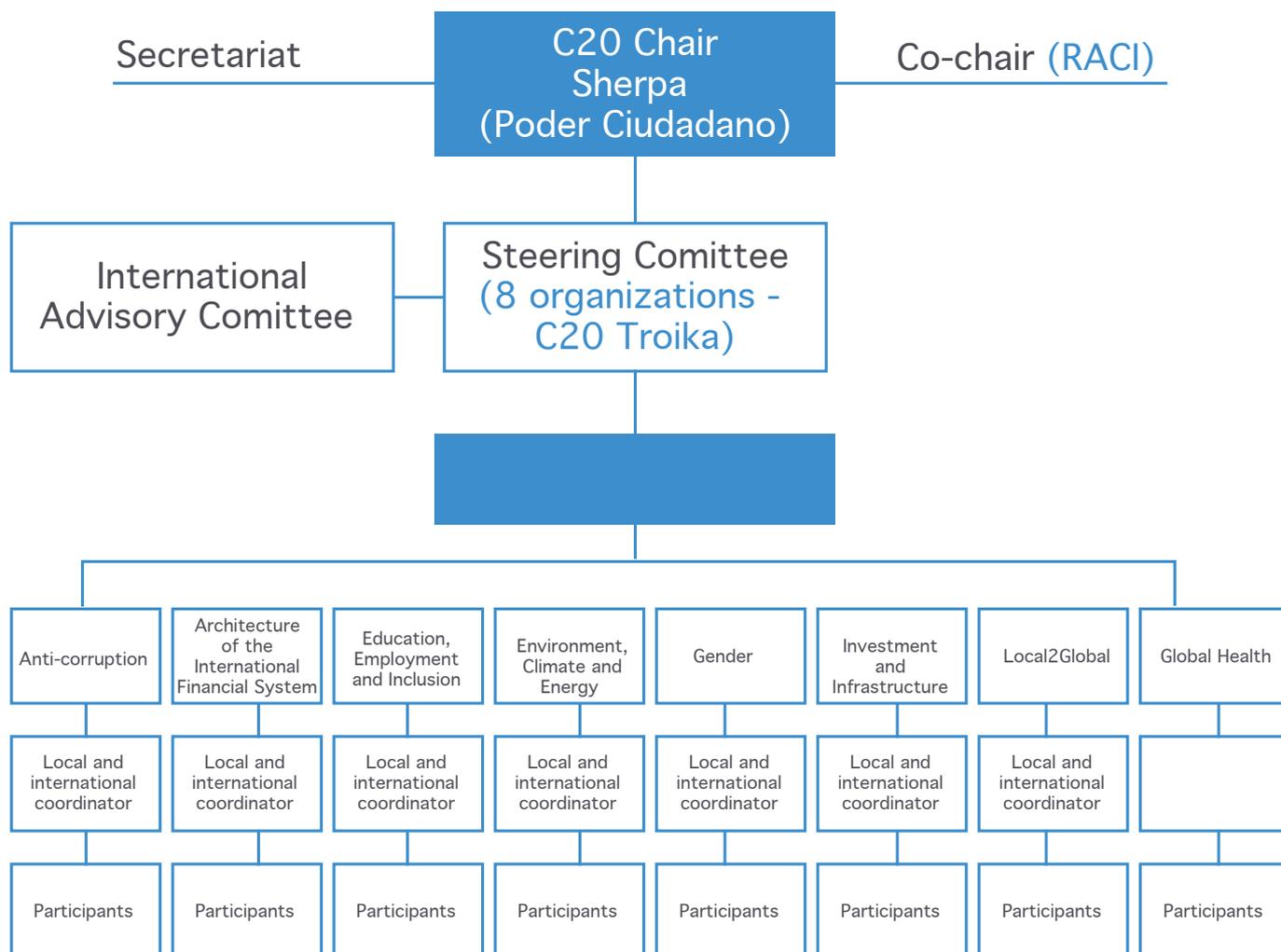
GROUP OF TWENTY (G20): It is the main international forum for economic, financial and political cooperation and consultation. It is made up of the European Union (EU) and 19 countries: Germany, Saudi Arabia, Argentina, Australia, Brazil and Canada. China, South Korea, United States, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, United Kingdom, Russia, South Africa, Turkey. Together, they represent 66% of the world’s population, 85% of global gross domestic product and 75% of international trade.

ENGAGEMENT GROUPS: They are parallel forums through which the G20, seeking to enrich the content of its dialogues, encourages the participation of civil society, in the broadest sense of the term. Each of these groups is dedicated to a theme of global relevance and meets independently throughout the year. The B20, C20, L20, S20, S20, T20, W20 and Y20 can be named as such. As a result of the exchange at the various meetings, each group presents a set of recommendations to the State leaders who then decide whether or not to incorporate them into the Final Communiqué.



CIVIL 20: It’s an engagement group that brings together civil society from around the world to contribute to the G20. Its objective is based on “creating spaces for debate and building, through transparent and inclusive processes, high-level documents that can be presented to the G20, thus seeking to influence this forum”.

SHERPA: This word refers to the people of the mountainous regions of Nepal. Because of the importance of these local people as guides in the Himalayas, the term “Sherpa” was expanded to include any helper on excursions to the area, even if they were not from that community. For their guidance, this is the name given to the representatives of the leaders of the Group of Twenty. Its role is to coordinate G20 policy in the country, to advise the leader and to negotiate on his behalf. The Argentinean Sherpa is Pedro Villagra Delgado.



TROIKA: The G20 uses this term, which comes from the Russian language, to denote its permanent formal structure, consisting of the country that presided over it the previous year, the country that currently holds it and the country that will chair it next year. This will ensure the continuity of the G20 agenda in the long term.

Sources:

- G20, *Fundación Poder Ciudadano, Buenos Aires, 2017.*
- G20 Argentina and engagements groups homepages: g20.org, civil-20.org, b20argentina.info, l20argentina.org, s20argentina.org, t20argentina.org, w20argentina.com and youth20.org