

B20 Germany Update

No. 2, December 2016

Shortly before the end of the year, B20 Germany looks back to two very productive months and intense work in the Taskforces (TF) and Cross-thematic Groups (CTG). All TF and CTG have decided on the three main topics for which members want to develop high-level recommendations. The drafting of the policy reports is well underway. Early December, the B20 Conference in Berlin offered a great opportunity for personal exchanges and constructive discussions. B20 Germany also engaged in important advocacy. Mid-December, chairs and co-chairs of the TF and CTG published a high-level statement for open markets and growth. The statement was widely reported on in German media and received very favourably by the German G20 and G20 Sherpa at their first meeting in Berlin. During the G20 Sherpa meeting mid-December, B20 Chairman Juergen Heraeus and B20 Sherpa Stormy-Annika Mildner had the opportunity to discuss B20 priorities with the G20. B20 Germany is delighted about the engagement and energy of B20 members. “The B20 would not be possible without the continuous engagement and contributions of its members. I am more than impressed by the commitment, expertise, and resolution of B20 chairs, co-chairs, and members,” B20 Sherpa Stormy-Annika Mildner emphasises.



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B20 Conference December 1st and 2nd December

Parallel to the official start of Germany’s G20 presidency on 1 December 2016, the Business 20 Dialogue (B20) held its first conference in Berlin. During the two-day event, Federal Minister of Finance Wolfgang Schaeuble and G20 Sherpa Lars-Hendrik Roeller elaborated on the key issue areas of digitalization, migration and climate change, as well as the “Compact for Africa” investment facilitation program for Germany’s G20 presidency. These priorities were echoed by B20 Chairman Juergen Heraeus, who underlined the importance of the B20 motto – especially the need to increase “responsiveness” to solidify support for global cooperation in times when globalization skepticism is on the rise around the world.

From creating a conducive environment for long-term investment to combatting unemployment via vocational training, the working groups and their knowledge partners engaged in intense and timely debate on many pressing issues.

Two panel discussions concluded a very productive first B20 Conference. The first panel, “Risks and Uncertainties – Towards a Resilient Global Economy,” focused on the need for new cooperative frameworks to account for uncertainty as well as new policy tools to reduce risk. The subsequent panel on “Innovation and Future Orientation: Stepping Stones for Sustainable Economic Growth,” discussed the role of digitalization for future economic growth. Panelists also debated key aspects of competitive labor markets and inclusiveness, emphasizing the importance of life-long learning.

You missed the conference? Watch the [video](#) of the panel discussions and have a look at the [impressions](#).



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Statement Open Markets and Inclusive Growth

In view of rising anti-globalization sentiments and increasing protectionist measures the B20 leadership issued a statement for open markets and inclusive growth to the attention of G20 Sherpas. In this context B20 Sherpa stated that also the business environment needs to communicate better the advantages of globalization and foster the education in companies. You can read the statement [here](#).

B20 at Business at OECD Day

December 08, B20 Sherpa Stormy-Annika Mildner participated at the BIAC Business Day 2016 in Paris. BIAC supports B20 as Network Partner in the Taskforce Digitalization and the Cross-thematic Group Responsible Business Conduct & Anti-Corruption. Mildner discussed the priorities of the G20 Germany Presidency 2017 with Bettina Stuchtay, Federal Ministry for Economic Affairs and Energy, and Gabriela Ramos, OECD.



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B20 Chairman Jürgen Heraeus is worried about the Anti-Globalization Trends

In an article in the Frankfurter Rundschau, one of Germany's leading newspapers, Juergen Heraeus warns of increasing popularity of populism that manifests itself in the post-factual rejection of Globalization. "Globalization has been the main driving force behind economic growth and rising prosperity for decades", writes Heraeus. In East- and Southeast Asia, it has lifted hundreds of millions of people out of poverty. At the same time, globalization also has negative side-effects. "As the central forum for international economic cooperation, the G20 needs to tackle this problem", Heraeus emphasises.



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First Meeting of the G20 Outreach Committee

November 30, B20 invited the other six official G20 Engagement Partners to discuss priorities and work programs in the coming year. Labour 20 (L20), Civil 20 (C20), Science20 (S20), Think Tank 20 (T20), Women 20 (W20) and Youth 20 (Y20) are part of the B20 Outreach Committee and will meet up regularly for an exchange. B20, T20 and W20 played an active part in the B20 Conference early December in Berlin.

G20 Engagement Groups B20 is part of seven engagement groups	
B20 - Business 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federation of German Industries (BDI) Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK) Confederation of German Employers (BDA)
C20 - Civil 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association of German Development NGOs (VENRO) German NGO Forum on Environment and Development
L20 - Labour 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> German Trade Union Confederation (DGB)
S20 - Science 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> German National Academy of Sciences (Leopoldina)
T20 - Think Tank 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> German Development Institute (GIZ) Institute for the World Economy (IWE)
W20 - Women 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Association of German Women Entrepreneurs (VDI) National Council of German Women's Organizations
Y20 - Youth 20	<ul style="list-style-type: none"> Federal Ministry for Family Affairs, Senior Citizens, Women and Youth

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B20 Taking Part in T20 Conference

T20 is one of the official engagement groups of the German G20 Presidency. It is organized by the prestigious think tanks German Development Institute and Kiel Institute for the World Economy. Over the next year, think tanks from all G20 countries are working together to find solutions for pressing issues such as climate change or global inequality. November 30 to December 1, the T20 conducted its first conference. At the Conference, B20 Sherpa discussed global economic growth and inequality with representatives from the T20.



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Is There an SME Myth?

November 30, B20 chairmen Juergen Heraeus participated in the conference "Towards a more Resilient Global Economy", which was organized by the German Federal Ministry of Finance and the Deutsche Bundesbank, in cooperation with CEPS. Together with the European Investment Fund and the OECD, Juergen Heraeus discussed the question "Is there an SME myth?". Heraeus highlighted that SMEs have an enormous influence on the economic resilience of many economic sectors, even whole economies. This resilience, this ability to absorb economic shocks, may decrease. He asked for a better business environment that allows for the best ideas to succeed at the markets.



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G20 Announces Working Program

With the beginning of its Presidency, Germany presented its priorities for the upcoming year. Germany will focus on three pillars under the motto "Shaping an interconnected world: Building resilience, improving sustainability and assuming responsibility." [Here](#) you can read about the program of the G20 Germany.

B20 at UNCTAD Trade & Development Board

December 06, B20 participated in the UNCTAD Trade & Development Board (TBD) meeting in Geneva. The TBD is UNCTAD's governing body which reports to the UN General Assembly. Christoph Sprich, Senior Manager at BDI, pointed out the importance of foreign direct investment for global economic development and outlined how investment can be strengthened worldwide. "States must work together on a global scale," Sprich emphasised. Under the German B20 presidency in 2017, global business will present proposals on how to facilitate investment.



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From Commitment to Action – Application of Integrity in Practice.

B20 Germany is proud to have been a partner in the Alliance for Integrity’s Global Conference, November 17: From Commitment to Action – Application of Integrity in Practice. B20 Concept Partner to the Cross-thematic Group Responsible Business Conduct and Anticorruption Noor Naqschbandi emphasized that the cost of corruption equaled more than five percent of global GDP (US\$ 2.6 trillion). Much had already been done to fight corruption. But we could do better, Naqschbandi called upon the international community. The Alliance for Integrity is devoted to the fight against corruption world-wide. Several B20 Co-Chairs participated in the event.



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B20 Meets the Argentinian Business Associations

During her stay in Argentina, B20 Sherpa Stormy-Annika Mildner had the opportunity to meet with the Cámara Argentina de Comercio y Servicios to discuss the German G20 as well as the upcoming presidency of Argentina.

Mildner also met with the Unión Industrial Argentina for a productive exchange about the priorities of B20 Germany as well as the state of the global economy. B20 Germany is looking forward working with the Argentinian business community to prepare for B20 Argentina.



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Business Argentina is soon going to join the B20 Germany Troika to ensure continuity in the B20 process. We are looking forward to a productive partnership.



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B20 Chairman Juergen Heraeus at the International Steel Conference

Mid-November, Juergen Heraeus was invited to the International Steel Conference. In his speech about “Distortions in international competition: What can G20 do?” he highlighted the need for action on overcapacities. Global coordination was necessary in order to achieve sustainable and dynamic growth. The Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacities served in his view as a good platform for exchange and cooperation with members of G20 and the OECD.



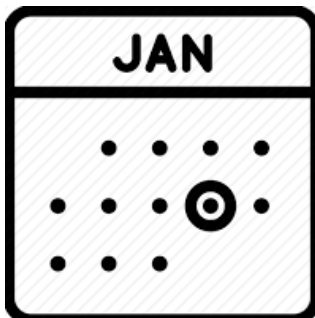
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B20 Meets Better Than Cash Alliance

The Better Than Cash Alliance is an UN-housed partnership of companies, governments, and international organizations that accelerates the transition from cash to digital payments in order to drive inclusive growth. Shifting these payments from cash to digital has the potential to give companies – including SMEs – governments, the development community and the private sector a more transparent, time and cost efficient, and often safer means of disbursing payments. The Better Than Cash Alliance will contribute with its experience to the Taskforce Trade & Investment as well as to the Cross-thematic Groups SMEs and Responsible Business Conduct & Anti-Corruption.

Inside B20

We are saying good-bye to our colleagues Bianca Meitzner, Julia Callies and Louisa Plasberg. We will miss them and wish them all the best. We are delighted that we will be supported by two new colleagues in the B20 team. Ben Buegers and Sabrina Netzer have joined us last month. Sabrina will be responsible for our two Cross-thematic Groups. We are happy to welcome Christopher Huppertz to our B20 Team. Christopher will support the team as student assistant while he pursues his master studies at the prestigious Hertie School of Governance.

Upcoming B20 Events

- Dec. 19.-21.: G20 Employment Working Group
- Jan. 12: OECD/BMWI Conference “Key Issues for Digital Transformation in the G20”
- Jan 18: B20/ICC/WTO Trade Dialogue, Davos
- Jan. 19: B20/BCG/Accenture Breakfast, Davos
- Jan. 23: TF Call Digitalization, TF Call Trade & Investment
- Jan. 25: TF Call Energy, Climate & Resource Efficiency
- Jan. 26: 6th Annual High-Level Anti-Corruption Conference for G20 Governments, Business and Civil Society in cooperation with the OECD (Berlin)
- Jan. 27: B20 Responsible Business Conduct Conference, Berlin



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B20 wishes you all the best for 2017!

Thank you very much for your support and hard work! The B20 Germany Secretariat is lucky and honoured to serve such an energetic, enthusiastic, and engaged G20 membership. We are looking forward to a productive 2017.

Happy holidays and all the best wishes for 2017!