

B20 Germany Update

No. 8, January 2018

On December 1, 2017, Argentina took over the G20 Presidency. With its three focal areas “The Future of Work”, “Infrastructure for Development”, and “A Sustainable Food Future”, G20 Argentina aims at “Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development.” B20 Argentina is well underway since B20 Germany handed over its presidency in Buenos Aires, November 1, 2017. B20 Argentina is currently establishing its taskforces. The deadline for the application process has just been extended to January 12, 2018.

For B20 Germany, the engagement in the B20 continues in the B20 Troika and as the contact point for German G20 officials. As such, B20 Germany was invited to several G20 Germany events in November 2017. On November 21, B20 Germany, together with the other G20 Engagement Partners, discussed the future of the G20 civil society dialogue with the German Chancellery. During an exchange on global health policy, B20 Germany, together with Civil20 (C20) and G20 representatives, debated the G20 results on health and the benefits of multisectoral cooperation. The inaugural meeting of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue took place on November 27 and 28, 2017. B20 Germany is delighted that G20 Argentina will continue the Dialogue on Resource Efficiency. Trade continues to be one of the top issues of the G20. B20 Germany and B20 Argentina jointly issued information material on the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacities. B20 Germany and B20 Argentina also attended the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference. On this occasion, both partners presented several policy recommendations on the future of the WTO.

This will be the last official newsletter of B20 Germany. For future news, please visit B20 Germany ([here](#)) and B20 Argentina website ([here](#)). We would like to thank all of you, the B20 Germany members, for your engagement, enthusiasm, and continuous support. B20 Germany would not have been possible without you! We wish you a Happy New Year! See you in Argentina!



B20 Argentina Application Process

The application process for B20 Argentina is still open until January 12, 2018! Please visit the B20 Argentina website to [apply](#).

B20 Argentina will continue previously addressed matters such as financing growth and infrastructure, trade and investment. However, it will also focus on new challenges of today's world. These are food accessibility and undernourishment for an increasingly growing population, and the new industrial revolution that poses challenging opportunities for the future of work. B20 Argentina features the following taskforces: Employment and Education; Digital Economy & Industry 4.0; Financing Growth & Infrastructure; Trade & Investment; Sustainable Food System; Energy, Resource Efficiency & Sustainability; SMEs Development; Integrity & Compliance.

The work of the taskforces will start in February. Please consult the calendar on the B20 webpage for upcoming events. The B20 Argentina team is looking forward working with you!



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11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11), December 10-13, 2017

Despite enormous efforts of the Director-General of the WTO, Roberto Azevedo, and constructive negotiation proposals by several G20 delegations, the 164 WTO members failed to adopt a joint declaration due to a lack of consensus.

Nonetheless, there were small steps to be welcome. WTO members committed to agree on effective rules on fishery subsidies at the upcoming ministerial conference in two years. At the last minute, they avoided the failure to extend the moratorium on customs duties on electronic transmissions. This multilateral self-commitment has been renewed by every Ministerial Conference since 1998. A failure would have resulted in new customs and duties and therefore would have caused additional burden on the world trading system. At the same time, a moratorium on a specific part of the Agreement on Trade-Related Aspects of Intellectual Property Rights (TRIPS) was extended. The MC11 Decisions also include a fairly general plan to continue working on the topic of electronic commerce. Beyond that, an informal and open working group has been established, which is to bring about a mandate decision for formal negotiations on promoting micro, small and medium sized enterprises (MSMEs) at the forthcoming Ministerial Conference. The Ministerial Decisions can be found [here](#).

MC11 confirmed that the WTO remains more important than ever for maintaining open and rules based world trade and to initiate new trade pacts. All G20 members must engage in a more flexible way, in order to revive the negotiating process of the WTO. It is imperative to move forward and to shape a modern multilateral trading agenda.

Along B20 Argentina representatives, B20 Germany Sherpa Stormy-Annika Mildner participated in the WTO Ministerial Conference, including a meeting with Director-General of the WTO, Roberto Azevedo, organized by the ICC, long-standing Network Partner of B20. In preparation of MC11, B20 Argentina and B20 Germany jointly summarized the B20 recommendations and positions on the WTO, which you can access [here](#). B20 Germany and B20 Argentina further accompanied MC11 with a social media campaign. Please check out our [facebook](#) and [twitter](#) presence!

Business Forum at MC11, December 12, 2017

The hosts of MC11, together with B20 Argentina and other partners such as B20 Network Partner ICC, held a major business forum – the first time at a WTO Ministerial Conference. Among others, the “SheTrades Argentina” initiative was launched at the Forum, aiming at better integrating women entrepreneurs into the global economy. In his capacity as B20 Chair and as one of the plenary speakers, Dr. Funes de Rioja, urged WTO members to strengthen the rule based multilateral trading system including monitoring and dispute settlement. Paolo Rocca, Chair of the B20 Argentina Taskforce Trade and Investment and President and CEO of Techint, analyzed the current structural challenges to trade and investment. He pointed out the need for “sustainable globalization” which takes into account transparent rules and economic neutrality of state-owned companies and the necessity of discussing protectionist measures.



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The Business Forum was a great opportunity for business to voice its interests in trade and the WTO. B20 was able to put forward its recommendations for the multilateral trading system, developed under the past B20 cycles. B20 hopes that the Business Forum will become a permanent feature at WTO Ministerial Conferences. B20 strongly believes that the WTO is the foundation of the international trading system: It is the guardian of open, rules-based and fair trade.

B20-MC11 Business Meeting, December 11, 2017



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Within the framework of the 11th WTO Ministerial Conference (MC11), B20 Argentina hosted a meeting with key members of the local and international business community at the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange. The meeting's speakers were Daniel Funes de Rioja, Chair of B20 Argentina, President of Copal and Vice President of UIA, Adelmo J. Gabbi, B20 Co-Chair and President of the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange, Carolina Castro, B20 Executive Sherpa, and Fernando Landa, B20 Sherpa Policy. Further participants included Daniel Pelegrina, B20 Co-Chair and President of the Argentine Rural Society (SRA); Jorge Pablo Brito, B20 Co-Chair and President of the Private Bank Association of Argentine Capital (Adeba); and Stormy-Annika Mildner, B20 Germany Sherpa. Participants discussed the challenges and opportunities for the B20 process.



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In his welcoming remarks, Adelmo Gabbi pointed out that support from the business community is a central element of the G20 process in order to promote growth and development. Furthermore, he stressed that a successful B20 process is an opportunity to position Argentina in the international arena. Carolina Castro also underlined that the active involvement of business in the B20 process would be essential to achieve a comprehensive view of current issues. During the discussion of challenges and opportunities of the Argentine B20 presidency in 2018, B20 Chair Funes de Rioja said that while the world is at a complex moment, "the Argentine presidency in international institutions such as the WTO or the G20 represent an opportunity for the country to once again play a leading role in a multilateral and globalized world". Fernando Landa supported this vision, arguing that there is a huge transformation challenge to ensure sustainable economic growth. For the closing remarks, Matías García Oliver, Undersecretary of Institutional Affairs of the Secretariat of Strategic Affairs, Chief of Cabinet of Ministers, Presidency of the Argentine Nation, joined the meeting. B20 Germany Sherpa Stormy Mildner called on all business participants to strongly support B20 Argentina.



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Exchange on Global Health Policy "Globale Gesundheit gemeinsam gestalten", December 6, 2017



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B20 Germany was invited to participate in an exchange on global health by the German Corporation for International Cooperation (GIZ) in Berlin. The conference aimed to increase the exchange with the civil society on health in the G20. The first session focused on the G20 activities on health, introduced by the German G20 Presidency. The representatives of the German Federal Ministry of Health and the German Federal Ministry for Economic Development and Cooperation emphasized the importance of the G20 Health Working



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Group for the continuity of the G20 activities on global health under G20 Argentina. B20 Germany Sherpa Stormy Mildner presented the results of the B20 Health Initiative and called for more attention to the health recommendations on neglected tropical diseases and digital health. Besides the B20, the Civil20 (C20) participated in the meeting. All participants highlighted the importance of multisectoral and international cooperation on global health. The G20 Health Working Group will hold its first meeting March 5, 2018. The Health Ministerial Meeting will take place October 4, 2018.



G20 Argentina Officially Started, December 1, 2017

With three focal areas “The Future of Work”, “Infrastructure for Development”, and “A Sustainable Food Future”, G20 Argentina aims at “Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development” – the motto of G20 Argentina. Further topics on the agenda are: empowering women, fighting corruption, continuing work towards a strong and sustainable financial system, improving the fairness of the global tax system, cooperating on trade and investment, taking responsibility on climate action, and transitioning towards more flexible and cleaner energy systems. For an overview of the topics of G20 Argentina please see [here](#).



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The logo of G20 Argentina represents, through its circular form and broad color palette, the world’s diversity and the challenge of consensus building to confront global issues. The conceptual framework of the Argentine G20 presidency is based on three pillars: diversity, people, and sustainable development.



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The G20 features two tracks: 1. The Finance Track comprises all meetings with G20 finance ministers and central bank governors and their deputies. 2. The Sherpa Track focuses on broader issues such as political engagement, anti-corruption, development, trade, energy and climate change, gender equality, among others. Each G20 country is represented at these meetings.

G20 Argentina, as previous presidencies, has a strong outreach. Argentina has invited Spain, Chile, and the Netherlands to attend the G20 meetings. Also invited are the chairs of the Caribbean Community (Jamaica), ASEAN (Singapore), African Union (Rwanda) and NEPAD (Senegal). Given its strong focus on infrastructure investment, Argentina has invited the Inter-American Development Bank and CAF-Development Bank of Latin America.



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As usually, G20 will be assisted in its work by international organizations including the United Nations, IMF, World Bank, WTO, OECD, Financial Stability Board and ILO.

G20 Argentina will follow the example of G20 Germany by continuing a strong dialogue with civil society. The engagement groups of the G20 are: Business (B20), Civil Society (C20), Labour (L20), Science (S20), Think Tanks (T20), Women (W20) and Youth (Y20).

The G20’s annual agenda includes over 50 meetings of ministers, sherpas, central bank governors, and world leaders. Each year’s cycle culminates in the Leaders’ Summit. The G20 Summit will take place November 30, 2018 in Buenos Aires. You can find the agenda of G20 Argentina [here](#).



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Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacities, November 30, 2017

The Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity (GFSEC) met at the German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy to discuss recommendations for reducing overcapacities in the steel industry. In the Hamburg G20 Leaders' Declaration, the G20 countries agreed to work out concrete policy proposals for solutions to reduce global steel overcapacities through the Global Forum by November 2017. B20 Germany and B20 Argentina jointly prepared and distributed an information paper on the GFSEC which you can access [here](#).

As a result of the GFSEC, the G20 Trade Ministers agreed to reduce steel overcapacities and to increase transparency on subsidies. They will examine national subsidies three times a year in the GFSEC, including subsidies that are tolerated under WTO rules. This is a first step towards reducing overcapacities and market-distorting measures. B20 supports the efforts to find joint and permanent solutions to address steel overcapacities within the G20 states.



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G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue, November 27 and 28, 2017

On November 27, 2017 the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue was launched. The inaugural meeting included a public session to discuss best practices on resource efficiency.

Several ministers participated in the high-level conference, among them Barbara Hendricks, Federal Minister for the Environment, Nature Conservation and Nuclear Safety, and Masahara Nakagawa, the Japanese Minister for the Environment. B20 Germany Sherpa Stormy Mildner presented the recommendations of the B20 Energy, Climate and Resource Efficiency Taskforce as well as best practices from the G20 countries. The Global Business Coalition, one of the Network Partners of B20 Germany, was also present. The Argentine National Director of Sustainable Development, Celeste Piñera, presented on sustainable development and resource efficiency in Argentina. B20 Germany is delighted to learn that G20 Argentina will continue the Dialogue on Resource Efficiency.

The launch of the G20 Resource Efficiency Dialogue is important to exchange good practices on resource efficiency and to promote sustainable consumption and production patterns. B20 will continue to support the G20 efforts to improve the efficiency and sustainability of natural resource use across the entire life cycle.



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IFOK G20 Citizen Engagement, November 27, 2017

The G20 has strongly engaged with the civil society dialogue partners. B20 supports these dialogues and is involved in the discussions to increase the voice of citizens. The latter was organized by the Institute for Organizational Communication in 2017. B20 Germany Sherpa Stormy Mildner was invited to an initial exchange on how to proceed with the citizens agenda. German Federal Minister for Economic Affairs and Energy, Brigitte Zypries, had received the Citizens Agenda in July 2017 and attended the meeting on citizen engagement hosted by IFOK.



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G20 Germany Engagement Partner Meeting, November 21, 2017

The G20 Germany Engagement Partners met with G20 Sherpa Lars-Hendrik Röller and G20 Sous Sherpa Gesa Mieke-Nordmeyer. For B20 Germany, Stormy Mildner participated in the Engagement Partner Meeting and discussed how the cooperation can be extended and can even go beyond the G20 process. She praised the close collaboration among G20 Engagement Partners and stressed that the B20 looked forward to continuing this cooperation in upcoming G20 cycles!



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Business Leaders Forum, Rosario, November 2, 2017

To kick-start the B20 Argentina Presidency, the B20 Argentina invited representatives of the private sector to participate in the event "Business Leaders Forum: On the way to G20 Argentina", organized jointly with the Rosario Stock Exchange and the Industrial Federation of Santa Fe. The ceremony was attended by several authorities from the main business chambers of the country, representatives of B20 Germany, including B20 Chair Jürgen Heraeus and B20 Sherpa Stormy Mildner, and national authorities such as the Minister of Production, Francisco Cabrera, the Argentine Sherpa of the G20, Ambassador Pedro Villagra Delgado, and the Governor of the Province of Santa Fe, Miguel Lifschitz. Earlier this year, Ambassador Villagra Delgado, on behalf of the national government, had appointed Dr. Daniel Funes de Rioja as leader (Chair) of the B20 and the presidents of the group of business chambers (ADEBA, BCBA, CACS, CAMARCO, SRA and UIA) as Co-Chairs. Likewise, the newly appointed B20 Sherpas, Carolina Castro and Fernando Landa, attended the event. The Forum addressed the unprecedented opportunity that Argentina has to preside over this process and the challenge that this entails for national entrepreneurs to lead the discussion and achieve consensus on policy recommendations.



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B20 Presidency Handover, November 1, 2017

The handover ceremony was hosted by G20 Sherpa Ambassador Pedro Villagra Delgado who emphasized the importance of the G20 in international cooperation. This view is shared by the B20. The G20 is a major actor in global cooperation and holds the necessary weight and legitimacy for global governance. The world is becoming more complex, and economic and social challenges remain unsolved. In an increasingly uncertain world, the G20 needs strong partners. B20 Germany Chair Jürgen Heraeus and B20 Argentina Chair Daniel Funes de Rioja both stressed the role of business in international cooperation during the handover ceremony and emphasized that the B20 is a strong and reliable partner to the G20. "The B20 has proven to be a responsible voice for innovative and clear views on how today's challenges may be approached," stated Funes de Rioja. The B20 provides the necessary expertise to find answers to the most pressing global economic challenges of our times and supports the G20 with consolidated policy recommendations. "Our voice is vital in finding solutions to today's problems," emphasized Heraeus. "Let us dream together", Funes de Rioja added, "But let us also take action. Only if we join forces, we will be able to have a lasting impact".



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“Inclusiveness must be a key factor considered every time we debate and propose new ideas,” noted Funes de Rioja. The taskforce work of B20 Germany will be continued under the Argentine presidency. “We will ensure continuity because we believe those issues are still of key relevance for the promotion of global prosperity,” confirmed Funes de Rioja. B20 Argentina will add one new topic to the B20 agenda: sustainable, accessible, and global nourishment for all. “This has been a blind spot for too long on the B20 and G20 agenda,” Heraeus conceded. “We very much support the efforts of B20 Argentina to strengthen the voice of the agricultural sector in the B20,” he lauded the initiative of B20 Argentina.



Besides the G20 Sherpa Ambassador Pedro Villagra Delgado, representatives from Argentine government as well as diplomats attended the handover ceremony along with the presidents of the main business organizations in Argentina, who have been appointed as B20 Argentina Co-Chair, namely the Argentina Industrial Employers Chamber (UIA), the Argentine Bankers Association (ADEBA), the Buenos Aires Stock Exchange (BCBA), the Argentine Chamber of Construction (CAMARCO), the Argentine Chamber of Commerce and Services (CACCS), and the Argentine Rural Society (SRA). “I am convinced that the work of B20 Argentina will contribute to strong, sustainable, and balanced growth of the world economy,” said B20 Germany Chair Heraeus when handing over the presidency to Funes de Rioja and his B20 Argentina team. In addition to the B20 Argentina Co-Chairs, Funes de Rioja will be supported by the two B20 Sherpas Carolina Castro, B20 Executive Sherpa, and Fernando Landa, B20 Policy Sherpa, and their project team.



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B20 Argentina-Germany AHK Lunch Meeting, November 1, 2017

During a networking lunch hosted by the German-Argentinian Chamber of Industry and Commerce (AHK), a first exchange between B20 Germany, B20 Argentina, and the Argentine Business Community was initiated. The lunch event was an excellent opportunity to initiate a dialogue on future challenges and expectations regarding the B20. Many thanks to the German-Argentinian Chamber of Industry and Commerce being such a strong partner of the B20!

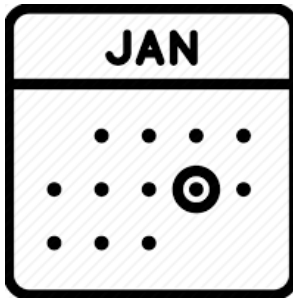


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B20 Survey on Trade Barriers Included in the WTO Report, September 9, 2017

The latest WTO monitoring report of G20 trade measures (mid-May to mid-October 2017) confirmed yet again the trend towards more protectionism, however, at a slow pace. The WTO report also includes a large box on the B20 Survey on Trade Barriers made under the German Presidency. It is much appreciated that the WTO takes well note of the business perspective and echoes the call of the B20 to better implement the G20 commitment against protectionism.

You can access the report [here](#).



Upcoming B20 Events

- For B20 Argentina events the official website will be available in due course. You can access the website [here](#).

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The B20 Germany Team wishes you a Happy New Year and a successful B20 Argentina cycle 2018!