

Policy Note

Working with partners

“The G20 is not about us in government; it’s about the people, our masters.”

Tony Abbott, Prime Minister of Australia, World Economic Forum, January 2014

Engaging with the G20

G20 governments recognise that an active dialogue with the public is crucial to ensure the G20’s work lifts growth and increase employment opportunities for all citizens. Since the first G20 leaders summit, five recognised engagement groups have been established, gathering key economic and social actors across G20 nations to advise and inform the G20’s decisions. These groups are the Business 20 (B20), Civil Society 20 (C20), Labour 20 (L20), Think 20 (T20) and Youth 20 (Y20).

Involvement of these groups in the G20’s work has grown over the years, reflecting the important role of the non-government sector in securing the post-financial crisis recovery. Leaders announced in their fifth anniversary Vision Statement of September 2013 their intention to strengthen engagement with the B20, C20, L20, T20 and Y20. Australia is taking this vision forward during its G20 presidency.

While these groups are independent from any government, they share with the G20 a desire to build prosperity for all people across emerging and developed economies. The groups provide advice on what the G20 can do to tackle global economic challenges, identify their own actions to support shared

G20 goals and, increasingly, work in partnership with the G20 to implement leaders’ decisions. Each group will hold a major meeting in Australia in 2014, with recommendations to be provided to the G20 to inform and support the outcomes of the Brisbane summit.



BUSINESS 20

The B20 brings together business leaders from across G20 countries to formulate policy advice for G20 leaders. Its contribution reflects the widely-held

view among G20 members that, as the main driver of economic activity, the private sector has a key role to play in achieving the goal of strong, sustainable and balanced growth.

Business representatives have been involved in G20 leaders’ summits since the first in 2008. The B20 was made a part of the G20 calendar at the Seoul summit in 2010. This year the B20 is being organised by the Australian B20 Leadership Group, chaired by Wesfarmers Managing Director Mr Richard Goyder AO.

The B20’s policy focus for 2014 is on: financing for growth; human capital; investment and infrastructure; trade; and



Parliamentary Secretary to the Prime Minister, the Hon Josh Frydenberg MP (fourth from the right), with participants at an Engagement Roundtable on 12 May. The Australian G20 presidency is meeting with business, civil society, labour, think tank and youth leaders to discuss the G20 agenda.

an overarching work program on anti-corruption. Recommendations around these areas will be finalised at the B20 summit in Sydney in July 2014.



CIVIL SOCIETY 20

The C20 gathers independent civil society organisations to discuss and develop advice to the G20 utilising the sector's broad expertise, experience and knowledge. Civil society's place in G20 engagement recognises the need for economic growth to benefit all citizens, lift living standards and improve quality of life.

A substantial dialogue with civil society was initiated at the Mexican G20 summit in 2012 and the first C20 Summit was held by Russia in 2013. The C20 this year is being run by the C20 Steering Committee, chaired by World Vision Australia CEO Rev Tim Costello AO.

The C20 has identified four key policy themes for its work in 2014: inclusive growth and employment, infrastructure, climate and sustainability, and governance. The C20 will hold its major summit for this year in Melbourne in June 2014.



LABOUR 20

The L20's work represents the perspectives of international organised labour, a key consideration given the G20's firm focus on creating and enriching jobs.

Like business, organised labour has been involved since G20 leaders first met in 2008 in Washington, and labour groups have met as the L20 since the 2011 Cannes G20 summit. The L20 is organised annually by the International Trade Union Confederation and the OECD's Trade Union Advisory Council, working this year with an Australian L20 Steering Group chaired by Ms Gerardine Kearney, President of the Australian Council of Trade Unions.



Ms Holly Ransom (Y20) and Rev Tim Costello (C20)

The L20's priorities for 2014 include: creating quality jobs; scaling apprenticeships; social protection floors; sustainable, green and inclusive growth; and financial regulation. The L20's summit will take place in Brisbane in November 2014.



THINK 20

The T20 brings together international think tanks and academics to undertake research and share knowledge on G20 issues. Three T20 meetings have been held since its inception; under the 2012 Mexican, 2013 Russian and 2014 Australian G20 presidencies.

The Australian Government commissioned the Lowy Institute for International Policy to establish a G20

Studies Centre, which is headed by Mr Mike Callaghan AM PSM. The G20 Studies Centre is running the T20 process for 2014, and to date has released a collection of T20 papers, an ongoing G20 publication, and hosted a number of seminars on G20 policy issues. A T20 conference will be held in Melbourne in June 2014.



YOUTH 20

The Y20 is a meeting of young leaders from across the G20 that seeks to build skills, expand networks, and contribute to addressing the most pressing economic challenges and opportunities facing young people today. The G20's engagement with youth recognises the long-lasting and far-reaching effect G20 decisions have on young people across the globe.

G20-related youth events have been held since the 2010 Canadian G20 presidency, and were first included in the G20 calendar by Mexico in 2012. This year the Y20 is being organised by the Australian Y20 Planning Group, co-chaired by Ms Holly Ransom and Mr Josh Zwar.

The Y20 has focussed its policy work for 2014 under the theme 'engaging the present, shaping the future', which targets three key areas: growth and jobs creation; global citizenship (education and labour mobility); and sustainable development. The Y20 summit will be in Sydney in July 2014.

Further information

Further information about the G20 engagement groups is available at their official websites:

Business 20: b20australia.info

Civil 20: c20.org.au

Labour 20: labour20.org

Think 20: lowyinstitute.org/programs-and-projects/g20-studies-centre

Youth 20: y20australia.com