

C20 Summit Report

For public distribution, 16 July 2014

Summary

The C20 Summit was held on 20 and 21 June 2014 at the Woodward Centre, University of Melbourne.

The purpose of the Summit was to broaden and deepen civil society engagement with the C20 process and confirm support for our key recommendations to G20 leaders.

Planning for the Summit was primarily coordinated through the C20 Secretariat along with leadership from the Summit Sub-Committee and support from C20 Steering Committee members.

The program was structured around two days of keynote addresses, plenary panel sessions and breakout discussions on specific policy topics identified through our broad policy themes of inclusive growth and employment; infrastructure; climate change and resource sustainability; and governance. A summit dinner on Friday 20 June was held at Melbourne University's Ormond College.

The Summit produced a communique which was broadly supported by delegates. A delegation of C20 members and their international representatives presented the communique to the Australian Prime Minister, Tony Abbott, on Sunday 22 June.

As part of a broader engagement, the C20 was invited to present its key issues and recommendations to, and engage in discussion with, the joint meeting of the Sherpas and Deputy Finance Ministers on Sunday 22 June, 2014.



Key figures

Attendance:

253 delegates (149 women and 104 men, 16.5% international)

85 speakers (35 women and 50 men, 23.8% international)

From G20 and non-G20 nations.

Summit Management:

3 person management team (Event Manager and the C20 Secretariat)

Two communications officers

20 volunteers

Media and Communications:

40 published online media articles

Live coverage on Sky News, ABC Radio and ABC News 24

1169 people sent 5256 tweets, reaching 2.9 million people

Policy discussions:

2 government ministers and the deputy leader of the opposition

2 Keynote addresses: on climate change by Don Henry and governance by Huguette Labelle

Video presentations from Jeffery Sachs and Helen Clarke

5 plenary sessions discussing global civil society issues

12 breakout sessions on 4 key policy themes

42 email submissions over the Summit itself

Final outcome:

1 communique, (5 pages long) endorsed by the C20 Steering Committee, welcomed by the Summit, and presented to the Prime Minister by members of the C20 Steering Committee and international civil society representatives



Inclusive Growth and Employment

The three key policy questions discussed in the Summit's breakout sessions were development and the post-MDGs, the participation of vulnerable groups including women and youth, and education and employment.

Audio recordings of all sessions, and policy papers are available online at www.c20.org.au.

General feedback from delegates and speakers at the Summit confirmed the need for the G20 to embrace an overarching narrative that clearly links the growth and equality agendas. The Summit confirmed the centrality of the C20's role in keeping the G20 accountable through country growth and employment action plans that set benchmarks, and had both achievable and concrete milestones and deadlines. Importantly the G20 should report on their achievement against these set criteria and be judged accordingly by the C20.

Language emerged as an important issue, both in terms of the G20's use of the language of inequality, but also about the negative and marginalising implications of the term 'vulnerable' when referring to women, young people and people with a disability. The term simply does not describe any group as a whole.

When confirming action targets around employment growth, the Summit discussed the need for the G20 to pay appropriate attention to underemployment, the informal sector, and the social protections (such as collective bargaining and freedom of association) so critical in the growth and productivity debate.

In our communique, the C20 confirmed that economic growth should be inclusive, and achieve positive social and environmental outcomes, and reduce poverty and inequality amongst people. Growth should create jobs and should not be an end in itself. In this regard, the C20 proposes that country growth plans include measures to ensure the bottom 20 percent of all income earners benefit from any growth outcomes. That the policies of the G20 should take into account the differential impact on women and men is also a critical element of the inclusive growth agenda.

While efficient and effective market based mechanisms can operate beneficially, they need to be acceptable and responsive to the needs of all peoples, fair and environmentally friendly. The G20 has a leadership role to help drive the development of the sustainable development goals and that these goals apply equally to all nations, not just developing and low income nations.



Infrastructure

The three key policy questions discussed in the breakout sessions on this theme were about project financing, project design and prioritisation, and protections and safeguards.

Audio recordings of all sessions and the policy and background papers are available online at www.c20.org.au.

The positive benefits from infrastructure were highlighted at the Summit, but there was an agreed role for civil society in promoting an awareness of the social, environmental, cultural and health trade-offs associated with major projects. Accordingly, there was a confirmation for the need for active community engagement throughout the entire life of a project, including in governance arrangements. Social and environmental protections should be central concerns in approvals processes.

Concern remains over the G20's apparent pre-disposition towards PPPs as a means for funding major projects. Rather, the Summit confirmed a preference for a 'value-for-money' approach to financing, with projects judged on a project-by-project basis with best practice principles applying.

There was much discussion about the definition of infrastructure, with the Summit confirming that the G20 ought not be blinkered by definitions or projects that are biased towards transport, energy and trade facilitation, but also take into consideration projects which provide health, education and digital services, or which are otherwise 'productive'; and an expressed favour for infrastructure which is resilient to climate change and climate shocks.



Climate and Sustainability

The three key policy questions discussed in these themed breakout sessions were climate change, climate finance and food and resource security.

Audio recordings of all sessions and the policy paper are available online at www.c20.org.au.

The overwhelming call for action from the Summit was for climate change to be a standalone issue on the G20 agenda. The Summit called on G20 leaders to exercise their collaborative leadership to ensure this occurs, to drive momentum to reach global agreement to tackle the deleterious impact of climate change at the UNFCCC meeting in Paris in 2015.

Relatedly, the Summit called for the G20 to commit to a climate finance roadmap to help developing nations reduce emissions and manage the unavoidable impacts of climate change, and to enable the implementation of mitigation strategies to ensure sustainable economic growth is not affected by rapid changes in the world's climate.

There was confirmation that all governments should end their specific financial support for fossil fuels and that G20 nations remove impediments to efficient and effective investment in renewable energy and energy efficiency measures. This to be funded by a price on carbon, together with a firm commitment to a timeframe for implementation.

The discussion also included reference to all nations being party to the post-2015 sustainable development goals and that food security and small scale agricultural farming practices be acknowledged within these goals. This is an issue that brings together the complexities of market pricing, trade facilitation, access to finance, and water and fuel security.



Governance

The three key policy questions discussed in this theme were anti-corruption, tax transparency and open government.

Audio recordings of all sessions and policy papers are available online at www.c20.org.au.

For economies to grow inclusively and sustainably, ending corruption and building strong institutions is critical. This includes the G20 itself and the Summit called on the G20 to be more open, transparent and accountable within its own processes. The commitment to a new anti-corruption action plan was welcomed.

There was general and broad consensus for the establishment of public registries detailing company (and other legal entities) ownership in order to trace the beneficiaries of profits and to minimize the crippling impact of tax evasion and profit shifting. The G20's leadership was called for to advance the global standard for reporting payments made by on a country-by-country basis, especially in the extractives industry.

The Summit supported the role of the G20 in assisting non-G20 countries build capacity to enable their reporting of tax information is an important matter of principle – non-G20 nations need to be included in the discussion about standards setting to benefit from the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting agenda.

There was also the recognition about the benefits of governments making their data available to citizens, to support economic growth and improve productivity through innovation and new business development opportunities, improve government accountability and tackle international crime, tax evasion and corruption.

Delegate feedback

In the days following the Summit, the Australian C20 surveyed delegates about their summit experience.

Overall, delegates voted the Summit a success, noting the event logistics and management, the quality of panel discussions, and the involvement by senior civil society and government leaders in the program. There was also a high degree of reported satisfaction about the policy working group process leading up to the Summit involving international co-chairs and discussion leaders.

When asked about what a future Summit might look like, delegates reported there could have been more clarity about the communique drafting process with well-communicated and structured opportunities for delegates to contribute directly. Given the fullness of the program, delegates also felt that there could have been more time set aside for networking and collegiate interaction.

Next steps

Commencing our advocacy strategy immediately after the Summit, members of the Australian C20 Steering Committee addressed a joint meeting of G20 Sherpas and Finance Deputies, and spoke directly to our key recommendations, highlighting our expectations of the G20 under the Australian Presidency. We confirmed the importance of the centrality of the voice of citizens to the G20's agenda. Sustainable, inclusive growth and ensuring the right settings for a resilient economy where benefits are shared, are important issues for all citizens.

That same afternoon, members of the C20 Steering Committee, along with international civil society representatives, presented the communique to the Australian Prime Minister.

From now until the Brisbane Summit in November, the C20 will be promoting our key recommendations through meetings with G20 officials and the Australian Government, as well as working with other engagement groups in the B20, L20, T20 and Y20 around our common priorities including unemployment, infrastructure, climate change, tax reform and anti-corruption.

The C20 will also be working towards a civil society event around the Brisbane Summit in November to continue to highlight the importance of the G20 confronting issues related to inclusiveness, gender equity, climate change, governance, productivity and employment.

How other civil society members can help influence the G20 agenda.

- i. Take the C20 communique and position papers to your civil society networks in your home country and ask other organisations and advocates to use the C20 recommendations in their advocacy
- ii. Set up a meeting with your government, parliamentarians and officials to ask for their support for these recommendations
- iii. Report back through the online crowdsourcing platform, to share your views and advocacy experiences with other civil society advocates around the world at www.c20conversations.org.au, and keep building momentum until the Brisbane Summit.

The communique can be found at www.c20.org.au, along with feature videos, audio recordings and images from the Summit.