

C20 Communiqué

In our communique last year, the C-20 affirmed the imperative of equality, humanity, and justice. These tenets are reflected in the “Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam” theme of this year’s G-20. We are “one earth”, each one of us upon it equal to the other in our rights and our obligations. We are “one family”, united and enriched in our common humanity. We have “one future” shaped by justice towards ourselves as towards the many species and geographies that share our world. The path we must tread on may be long, sometimes darkened. But, as a global civil society, we have the responsibility to be illuminators. As our 2023 Chair, Amma reassured us, we are the light, persevering in our mission to bring forward the voices of people spanning continents to facilitate constructive conversations between the numerous civil society representatives and the G20. Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) have been, are, and will remain a source of strong support to facilitate participatory processes and democratic governance worldwide.

We envision a development paradigm centred around “SEWA,” or selfless service, coupled with mutual respect, empathy, and sustainability. We call upon world leaders to put aside their self-interests and power contestations and shift their focus to cooperation and collaboration to build a better, stronger, and more inclusive post-COVID world aligned with human values, virtues, and vigour. We call upon the G20 leaders to take urgent, targeted action to mitigate the ecological crisis and promote the reflection of heightened ecological awareness in individual lifestyles. Our rivers’ natural flow and self-purification capacities must be protected, and water resources treated as commons. The pandemic has intensified deep inequalities worldwide, even as several ongoing multi-dimensional crises persist with their multi-layered consequences and the economic recession and price inflation arising from them.

We sincerely believe that our world cannot be destined to stay in turmoil and call upon the leaders of the G20 to step forward and act to promote peace, humanity, justice, and equity and strengthen efforts towards achieving the Sustainable Development Goals. (SDGs) We call for enhanced intergovernmental partnerships and partnerships between governments and respective civil societies to resolve the critical issues of our time and build a strong foundation for a just, equitable, and sustainable future for all with the vision of One Earth, One Family, One Future.

1. One Earth

The choice today before us is one existence or no existence. Climate change cannot be managed only by the efforts of a few. We call on G20 leaders to work unitedly and globally to urgently address this emergency.

As global citizens, we firmly believe that no one is free until everyone is free. We are, therefore, resolved to make ceaseless efforts for individual and collective social justice.

The world faces multi-dimensional challenges ranging from insufficient progress toward achieving SDGs and dealing with climate change and biodiversity loss to economic slowdown, debt distress, uneven pandemic recovery, growing poverty and inequality, food and energy insecurity, global supply chain disruptions, and geopolitical tensions and conflicts. At this juncture, we call upon the leaders of G20 to respond collectively to these challenges by bringing fresh perspectives, bold thinking, and innovative solutions to find durable solutions to these challenges.

We unwaveringly believe in the value of learning from each other and hope that the G20 government will inculcate this by adopting best practices across borders, exemplified in the Policy Pack as 'Udaaharans.'

2. One Family

The Upanishadic philosophy, "Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam" profoundly envisions the world as one family battling with conflicts and multiple crises. We, the Civil20, visualise a future where people from diverse backgrounds will coexist with mutual respect and understanding towards each other, with a sense of responsibility and sensitivity towards biodiversity, and strive for a balance between legitimate individualistic aspirations and the essential collective good.

We assert that it is crucial to actively work towards building an inclusive and compassionate global community, empowering marginalised groups, and working to support the preservation of native cultures across the globe. We can create a more inclusive and regenerative world by embracing community-led approaches, integrating traditional wisdom, and strengthening civil society's role. Respecting these groups and learning from their holistic knowledge systems and sustainable practices can help set the world toward achieving the SDGs. We call for

enhanced global multilateral cooperation, resource-sharing, and information-sharing for harmonious and equitable development and crisis mitigation.

On the eve of the 75th anniversary of the Universal Declaration on Human Rights, we call for these precepts to be recognized and instilled as human values while advocating strongly in favour of diversity, inclusion and mutual respect in order to realise the ideal enshrined in the Charter of the United Nations of the "dignity and worth of the human person."

We believe that there is no single universal prescription for development. Nations develop on the strength of their cultural ethos, and approaches adopted by various nations in meeting their unique challenges possess equal value. As such, the cultural relativity of public policy must be respected. As global citizens, we support the fair representation of all nations, developed, developing, and least developed, on the world stage. We call upon G20 to act on strengthening the role of the United Nations in protecting this diversity and richness and in promoting peace.

3. One Future

We reiterate the motto of “Building Back Stronger and Better” to pave the way for a more peaceful and just world. We urge swift and targeted action to ensure education for all and reverse systemic inequalities. We aspire for a restoration of faith in multilateralism and trust in science.

We welcome enhanced climate actions resulting from the new or updated Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs) and invite parties to urgently scale up mitigation and adaptation ambition and means of implementation. We welcome the COP 27 decision regarding funding arrangements for responding to loss and damage. We recognise the undeniable impact of climate change on societies worldwide and highlight the pressing need to redefine mitigation strategies and promote generous and innovative means of climate financing that prioritise vulnerable populations in all countries, including women, migrants, indigenous people, persons with disabilities, and youth.

We also hope to highlight the rising cases of adverse mental health conditions and call for an integrated and holistic approach to health under the principle of One Health for the planet and all human beings.

We recognize the rapid and widespread change brought about by digital transformation, offering unprecedented advancements for improving the human condition. However, we call for the recognition that education or digital technologies, when improperly or maliciously used, can fuel divisions within and between societies and countries, increase insecurity, undermine human rights, and exacerbate inequalities and fervently hope that the G20 leaders will take cognizance of this and take necessary collective action. Education on emerging technologies and collaboration between stakeholders and countries is necessary for beneficial use and mitigation of potential harm and collaboration between stakeholders and countries to deal with the ever-evolving digital environment and promote a secure and inclusive digital world. We call for a new social contract to unite and protect an Artificial Intelligence World Society.

We seek to promote core principles of inclusiveness and human-centred approaches through compassion-based perspectives and universal access to education, skills, and digital resources. We sincerely believe that compassionate, value-based education can shape perspectives. G20 nations are urged to consider the proactive role that values and norms play in protecting human rights, seamlessly integrating them into the social fabric, reflected in the principle of Antyodaya where the well-being of the last woman standing in the queue should always be considered when making policy decisions.

We call for just world finance systems and assert that development without democracy is akin to a society bereft of humanity. We emphasise the need for a comprehensive and holistic approach to achieving gender equality by improving gender-disaggregated data collection to inform decision-making, allocating sufficient resources to gender equality policies and programmes, ensuring intersectional policy and programme design, and prioritising safety and security for women in all aspects of life and measures to promote women-led development.

We urge the global community to live in confluence with mother nature and avoid conflict with her.

As we look back upon our many events, forums, and deliberations over the past year, we affirm our resolve to continue to be the platform for CSOs’ dialogue with G20, to collaborate, advocate for change, and contribute to the development agenda, ultimately fostering a sense of service and selfless love for one another, as well as within and between societies across the world. We reiterate our commitment to collaborating with the G20 to build a better today and not wait for tomorrow.

Jaipur, India: 31 July 2023

