

## **Civil20 Address to the G20 Leaders**

### **(Preamble)**

We, the Civil20 participants and delegates of the G20 Civil Summit, endorse the initiative of the Russian presidency to incorporate civil society into the G20 consultations process. The Civil20 format has made it possible to set up a constructive and result-oriented dialogue between civil society and the government officials responsible for drawing up state policy. Such structured efforts should be continued under the subsequent presidencies. For this reason,

We propose preparing a mid-term collaboration strategy between the Civil20 and the G20.

We call on the G20 to make the accountability procedure transparent and to continue discussing the priority issues on the agenda with representatives of civil society.

We hope that the accountability reports the G20 prepares on its key decisions will be transparent and comprehensive and that the G20 will include the Civil20 in their discussion.

We pledge that members of civil society will also adhere to the principles of transparency and accountability.

We will promote the implementation of our recommendations in the G20 countries, including by monitoring the performance of the commitments adopted in compliance with our proposals.

We suggest that further Civil20 efforts be focused on drawing up general principles of collaboration between the state and civil society in the G20 countries. Collaboration should be based on rule of the law, balance of power, and information openness (transparency). Civil society should be autonomous from the state.

Civil society is transboundary and depends not only on local and national interests. This is precisely why it can and should become an important part of the global political dialogue. Transboundary financial support of civil society organizations is a common practice. When the activity of NCOs is legal and transparent, international financial support and participation in international cooperation should not be grounds for doubting their legitimacy.

Inclusive and forward looking societies depend on the distinctive and complementary roles of the public, private and civil society sector. Among these actors, civil society, as agents of the people, seeks to advance and preserve community interests and rights by promoting participation, transparency and accountability. Across all G20 countries there is a need to understand why the spaces for government – civil society dialogue have been shrinking. Civil society organizations understand that governments can be challenged to balance their desires to accommodate civil society with their responsibilities to regulate the sector. It is therefore proposed that, under the Russian Presidency, that the G20 be asked to support, in principle, that civil society will establish an all country working group with a mandate to present G20 leaders with recommendations for a universal platform for the common regulation of civil society along with a charter for the self-regulation by the sector and standards for ensuring transparent monitoring and reporting.

In 2013, Russia, as the G20 presiding country, expanded the consultations process with civil society by incorporating it into the discussion on its presidency priorities as a full-fledged social partner along with big businesses and trade unions. The G20 Civil Summit is the significant component of this process. We endorse a broader dialogue with civil society and hope that the G20's experience will be continued and developed by subsequent G20 presiding countries.

We encourage G20 countries to facilitate convention of annual regional, national and international civil society forums.

The Civil20 has formed seven working groups that operate in keeping with the priorities of the Russian presidency, and also a task force on equality. These efforts have produced a set of G20 recommendations to the G20 countries and a thematic report on G20 Proposals for Strong, Sustainable, Balanced and Inclusive Growth, which is attached to this Address.

Co-Chairs of the Civil20 Working Groups

Civil20 Secretariat