

## **C20 Australia 2014 Mexican CSOs position paper**

Inequality is the defining challenge of our time. For many years, governments, CSOs and scholars have focused on reducing poverty. However, today the paradigm of reducing inequality has emerged as key to an inclusive and shared growth, particularly in emerging countries like Mexico.

In 2009, the G20 adopted the Framework for Strong, Sustainable and Balanced Growth with the purpose of avoiding future crisis, by restoring confidence and global growth. However, to deliver on this, G20 leaders must work together with all development actors and address the problem through a comprehensive approach.

The G20 must commit to tackle inequality specifically, while addressing financial and economic actions that impact opportunities for inclusive development. The following are some of our recommendations on inclusive growth and employment, climate -sustainability and food security, infrastructure, global governance and gender equality.

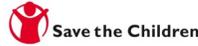
### **Inclusive growth and employment**

Last year in St. Petersburg, G20 leaders committed to an inclusive growth model focused on labor markets and to encourage participation of the labor force and human capital development in order to contribute to sustainable growth. This year, we urge G20 countries to publicly report their progress on sustainable growth actions prior to Employment and Finance Ministers meetings in September 2014. Also, it is necessary the G20 broadens the concept of inclusive growth, so that discussions go beyond the labor force participation rate and it ensures that all people benefit from economic growth (greater equality in the benefits and opportunities for women and men).

We call for the development of an inclusive model of growth through an enabling environment that addresses existing gender and age inequalities, as well as poverty in rural areas. We appeal G20 countries to implement policies and facilitate programs that allow all men and women to benefit equally from the opportunities brought by economic growth, to carry out measures that promote decent work with fair and equal wages in urban and rural communities and to enhance youth employability through broad-based education and training.

### **Climate- sustainability and food security**

Small-scale food farmers can play a key role in food security as well as sustainable agricultural production, as agro-ecological farming systems can provide the locally-tailored, knowledge-intensive environmental services required to build vibrant, sustainable food systems and restore the degraded natural environment. G20 nations must invest in long-term, landscape-level strategies that restore the environment while empowering small-scale farmers to adapt to climate change.



## Infrastructure

As already has been mentioned by the Australian Presidency “building infrastructure drives growth in the short term through investment and employment, and makes economies more productive in the long term”<sup>1</sup>. However, we consider that infrastructure without equality may have broad social and economic effects by reducing stable demand for goods and services, limiting access to education and health, damaging environments, and inhibiting human development.

In this regard, we appeal the Infrastructure Working Group (IWG), Development Working Group (DWG) and the High Level Panel on Infrastructure Investment (HLP) to present specific actions and commitments; in particular concerning sustainable mobility, in hand of the presented toolkit on Urban Mass Transportation Infrastructure Projects in Medium and Large Cities<sup>2</sup>, to foster the allocation of public and private resources into massive urban public transport and non-motorized mobility. Bridging the gap in mobility infrastructure could reach efficient, safe and affordable transportation for users, better workable conditions for drivers, less time and cost spent on mobility and environmental and health co-benefits. Urban transport is a cross-cutting solution for equity, growth economy and development.

Finally, due to national transportation best practices and their position as Co-chairs of the IWG, we summon Mexico, Germany and Indonesia to be promoters of the sustainable and equitable mobility agenda in the upcoming negotiations.

## Global governance

Good governance is understood to be participatory, accountable, transparent, efficient, responsive and inclusive, respecting the rule of law and minimizing opportunities for corruption. Governance and its elements, such as transparency, accountability, integrity and citizen participation must be recognized as critical forces behind eliminating poverty and inequality. It is necessary to create a participatory, equitable, sustainable and human rights centered global governance by giving the voice and experience of the grassroots partners a central role into the international debates.

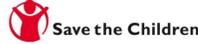
G20 needs to enable all people and public bodies to obtain detailed and reliable information on sustainable development; curb corruption and illicit financial flows; enhance the effectiveness of public institutions in curbing poverty and promoting sustainable development; enable the participation of all people in the design, delivery and monitoring of policy; and, enhance the accountability and positive impacts of business by ensuring full disclosure of relationships and report to a consistent standard on their impacts on the environment, society and human rights.

## Gender equality

G20 leaders must ensure gender equality is a crosscutting issue in all the development agenda, including the full realization of human rights and contributing to the reorganization and redistribution of power, wealth and resources, where the woman is recognized as an economic, environmental and productive actor.

<sup>1</sup> G20 2014: Overview of Australia’s Presidency. December 2013

<sup>2</sup> Presented by the World Bank and the Asian Development Bank (ADB)



Reducing inequality means increasing the incomes of those living in poverty, the vast majority of whom are small-scale food farmers – mostly women. Research shows that extremely poor women only succeed in moving out of poverty when they have access to a comprehensive package of community services, including health, education, safe water and sanitation, simple technology that reduces drudgery and real voice in the decisions that affect their lives. The fastest path to reducing inequality is the empowerment of women food farmers, and this must be a G20 priority.

### **Conclusion**

Growth is inclusive when it benefits all: the rich and the poor, men and women, and the environment we live in. G20 countries must stand unified for the adoption and implementation of bold goals and targets that focus on the empowerment of people – particularly women – as the pathway to an equitable, resilient and vibrant future. Equally important, the G20 will have to promote multi-stakeholder platforms and strong coordination mechanisms between all sectors to be successful in the fight against poverty and inequality, and to achieve a truly sustainable growth.