



Outcome G20 and Report of the F20 Foundations Platform

Results of the G20 summit in Hamburg | Contributions of the F20 Foundations Platform |

The events in Hamburg around 4th July 2017 | Future prospects of F20



Dear Colleagues and friends,

With this brief report, we would like to summarize the results of the G20 summit as well as the F20 activities which took place from 3rd-5th July 2017. But before we do that we would like to thank you all for your support and your hard work for a - from the F20's point of view - very successful week in Hamburg.

The days around the G20 summit here in Hamburg were indeed exciting. The high level political gathering triggered a large number of events and peaceful and colorful protests. Unfortunately, however, during the two days of the summit some violent protesters gained the national media attention and diverted public attention away from themes that were actually discussed at the summit. Apparently, international media however was keeping its focus on the outcome of the summit and emphasized important improvements in the 2030 Agenda and the successes in the climate and energy arena.



What was achieved at the G20 summit?

From our point of view G20 has made progress in keeping the world committed to climate protection and to the Paris agreement. Despite the US attempt to undermine it, 19 heads of states plus the European Union of the biggest economies confirmed their responsibility for a speedy implementation.

In their final statement, the dissent between the USA and the remaining 19 partners became clear, as 19 states confirmed that the Paris Agreement is irreversible, committed to a swift implementation and agreed upon a detailed climate and energy action plan. This action plan is considered the most concrete result in climate politics that has ever been resulted from a G20 summit.

In their final document, the 18 states plus the EU also highlighted the importance of long-term climate action which shall be presented until 2020. There were agreements on furthering development cooperation and investments in infrastructure to reach the goals of the Paris Agreement and they too refer to specific actions.

The US's attempt to undermine global climate action by announcing the withdrawal from the Paris agreement was kept at bay, since the US accepted the UN Sustainable Development Goals as a framework for the energy transition. In doing so, they agreed that the share of renewable energies will substantially increase until 2030, and that the speed of energy efficiency enhancement will double. We think that F20 made a major contribution.

The F20 Foundations Platform provided a 'fresh approach' to the G20 process

Our new F20 platform added indeed a fresh approach to the climate and G20 process. With our positive, solution-oriented style we made clear that foundations are willing and able to be part of the solution.

It started with our collective presence at the annual meeting of all foundations in Germany (the F20 platform was launched in May during the Stiftungstag - Day of Foundations - in Osnabrück, Germany), and was followed by our joint press releases, our joint declarations with other G20 engagement groups, our event at Hamburg town hall with some 400 invited participants and our publication, which has been created in cooperation with the French think tank IDDRI - all of these achievements were mounted at fast pace and with great commitment, and created a positive message during the German G20 presidency.

The event, three days prior to the summit, received great media attention nationally and internationally. Excellent speakers (such as Auma Obama, Laurence Tubiana, Michael Otto, Nicholas Stern, Amory Lovins, Kurt Bock, Wang Shi, just to name a few), the participation of Barbara Hendricks (German Minister of the environment) as well as Nicholas Hulot (French Minister of the environment), who broadcasted a video message, emphasized the urgency of the challenges we are facing. All of them also highlighted the importance of the F20 platform. The fact that the event took place in the town hall, that the mayor of Hamburg, Olaf Scholz, and the mayor of Paris, Anne Hidalgo, (via video message) launched the event also underlined the importance of communities and cities for the implementation of the 2030 agenda.

We can proudly say that despite the short time we had we were not only widely perceived as a highly relevant entity, but also as an important bridge between various social/civil groups - politics, business, finance, academia and civil society.

The side events in Hamburg around 3rd and the 4th of July 2017 were an excellent



For a transformation that leaves no one behind.

Also, the F20 side events were comprising and provided an attractive opportunity to further scrutinize some of the themes discussed at the main event. The workshops were well attended and covered a broad range of areas discussed from “Sustainability asset management (hosted by DBU) to cooperation with the private sector (hosted by ZEIT Stiftung and 2° foundation).

Also during the Assembly on Wednesday, Hamburg’s minister of energy and the environment, Jens Kerstan, made important contributions, as well as Bathylle Missika of the OECD office in Paris. Senator Kerstan elaborated on the particular role of Hamburg as a city state in Germany’s energy transition and shared his insights on how the city engages in implementing the SDGs.

Future prospects of F20

As for the events as well as for the F20 platform we received great feedback from the participants, but also from the German ministry representatives, which made clear that our foundations platform is badly needed, during and beyond the G20 summit.

We also agreed upon two important additions to our approach:

1. We will keep the name F20/Foundations 20: Beyond the reference to the annual G20 summits. However, the name should also be seen as a reference to the year 2020, in which the Paris Agreement is going to be implemented. And we think it’s important to also see the UN COPs climate conferences as an opportunity for the F20 activities. We have reconfirmed that we wish to remain independent as a group and do not want to become an official G20 engagement group
2. Green Finance and climate finance will be, with immediate effect, the focus of our work, and will be enclosed/added to our mission statement. We are convinced that this approach will make F20 more consistent and more coherent

What’s next?

Our partners in Argentina are ready to cooperate with us during their G20 presidency in 2018. Since the 2019 summit will be hosted by Japan, we will directly invite Japanese foundations to join us at the F20 platform. Although the government of India eventually abstained from hosting the G20 in 2019, we aim to continue - and intensify - our cooperation with our partners at Shakti foundation and the Tata Trust.

We think it’s also important to welcome more US-American foundations, as it indicates a strongly positive attitude within the United States: It’s not about 19 against one, but it’s about “G19 PLUS” the States and cities in the US.

Some of us will soon meet again in Bonn (Germany) during the COP 23 from 6th to 17th November and we are currently considering the option of holding an official or unofficial F20 side event, and an assembly of the attending F20 representatives. Wrapping up this short report, we think we can be very satisfied with the development of F20! At the same time, our success implies the responsibility to build on our achievements - and make the most of our potential as a new-born platform.

With best regards,

Klaus Milke, Johannes Merck, Stefan Schurig (Speaker of F20)