MEDIA ADVISORY

Business voice to the G20 issues call to action on advancing the UN’s global goals

Riyadh, Saudi Arabia, 13 October 2020 - The world is far from being on track to achieve the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) by 2030. Despite the progress made since 2015, COVID-19 has deeply hurt the global SDG efforts by diverting resources, stalling development work and highlighting tensions between countries.

The voice of business has never been more important in guiding the conversation around sustainable development and “building back better”. To that end, the B20, the voice of the private sector to the G20, today launches its report on Advancing the Global Goals on Sustainable Development: A B20 Call to Action.

The report demonstrates how the policy recommendations put forth by the B20 to the G20 earlier this month align with the SDGs. If adopted by the G20, they can help accelerate progress on the SDGs in the Decade of Action. The report details how each of the B20’s policy recommendations directly supports respective SDGs and how society must approach these issues from a business perspective.

The G20 can play a leading role in delivering SDG-centric policy formulation and should partner with the UN system and the business community to positively impact effective implementation.

You can read the report in its entirety here.

For easy reference, below is an infographic that summarizes the findings of the report, in alignment with the policy actions proposed by the B20.
GLOBAL BUSINESS
ADVANCING THE SDGs

B20 Saudi Arabia has presented policy recommendations to the G20 to help advance the SDGs. The current crisis is the right time to accelerate progress on SDGs and for business to strengthen its commitment for government policies that build back better.

WOMEN IN BUSINESS

- 27% Women occupy only 27% of managerial positions worldwide.
- 23% Gender pay gap stands at 23% globally (UN SDG Report, 2019)
- 2x Young women are twice as likely as young men to be unemployed or outside the labor force and not in school or a training program. (UN Global SDG Report, 2019)

RECOMMENDATIONS Relevant SDGs

- Driving reforms to foster an inclusive environment, ensuring fair and equal pay and encouraging new ways of flexible working
- Promote female business ownership and create an enabling environment for female-founded start-ups and businesses
- Apply a user-centric approach to policymaking and create synergies between stakeholders

DIGITALIZATION

- 16% Only 16% of individuals in least developed countries use the Internet.
- 89% 3G networks cover 89% of urban areas but only 29% of rural areas.
- 2% E-commerce use is below 2% of population in least developed countries, compared to more than 50% in many developed countries.

RECOMMENDATIONS Relevant SDGs

- Enable and support resilient digital infrastructure
- Support the healthy development and adoption of artificial intelligence (AI)
- Lay the foundations for smart cities
- Drive digital inclusion and grow digital skills

ENERGY, SUSTAINABILITY & CLIMATE

- 2020 The 20 warmest years on record have been in the past 22 years, with 2015-2018 making up the top four.
- 95% 95% of cities facing extreme climate risks are in Africa or Asia.
- 3.4M 3.4 million, mostly children, die annually from water-related diseases associated with pathogen-contaminated drinking water and inadequate sanitation.

RECOMMENDATIONS Relevant SDGs

- Commit to action towards carbon neutrality
- Provide predictable, effective policy frameworks to achieve carbon neutrality
- Strengthen climate resilience of infrastructure
This material is distributed by Edelman on behalf of SABIC. Additional information is available at the Department of Justice, Washington, DC.