

G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance Communiqué

Issued on behalf of the world's young entrepreneurs at the 2015 Young Entrepreneurs' Summit in Istanbul, Turkey: September 9, 2015

Endorsed by B20 Turkish Presidency

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20 YEA) is a global network of approximately 500,000 young entrepreneurs and the organizations that support them. In conjunction with the 2015 G20 Leaders' Summit in Antalya, Turkey, hundreds of young entrepreneurs met in Istanbul for the annual G20 YEA Summit from September 7 to 9, 2015. This gathering built upon a tradition of collaboration between the world's young entrepreneurs that began in Italy at the 2009 G8 summit and continued at successive G20 YEA Summits in Canada, France, Mexico, Russia and Australia. Each summit released detailed communiqués to engage the G20 Leaders and other bodies, deepening our shared understanding of the importance of entrepreneurship and presenting ideas to advance it.

In 2014, at the G20 YEA Summit in Sydney, Australia, the Alliance produced an Action Plan on Youth Employment that has led to positive policy changes in several G20 countries. As a companion to this plan, we co-authored a white paper on entrepreneurship (in partnership with the Youth 20) as part of our contribution to the United Nations Sustainable Development Goals. Both the Australian Government and the UN Development Program (UNDP) endorsed our work in this area, recognizing that entrepreneurship is part of the solution to the global youth employment crisis. The G20 Brisbane Leader's Declaration and the G20 Brisbane Action Plan called upon the G20 Employment Working Group to implement policies to support entrepreneurship.

Our 2015 Istanbul Summit also benefited from formal collaboration between the G20 YEA and task forces of the B20 (specifically those on SMEs and Entrepreneurship, Employment and Trade). Together, we collectively developed global policies (reflecting the B20's priorities of Inclusiveness, Implementation and Investment) to support entrepreneurship, SME development and measures to address youth employment. Our global movement was also encouraged by the emergence of the World SME Forum, an initiative of the Turkish government to recognize the contribution that SMEs can make to global economic growth and employment. The G20 YEA looks forward to being actively engaged in this ongoing endeavor.

Our focus in Istanbul was on a vital element that underpins the ability of young people to start and grow successful businesses around the world, namely entrepreneurship culture. We know that governments have a key role to play in fostering this culture to support and encourage young people to start their own businesses. Through engagement of thousands of entrepreneurs across our network and in collaboration with the B20, we defined our priorities for entrepreneurship. This was aided by research we conducted in partnership with EY and Accenture to identify best practices in promoting entrepreneurship and encouraging high-potential growth firms.

As a result of our alignment and work with the B20, the B20 Turkish Presidency has endorsed our communiqué. We therefore call upon the G20 leaders to endorse the following recommendations that will promote global and local ecosystems that are supportive of entrepreneurship culture:

1. **Support specific educational and skills measures to encourage entrepreneurship:** Encouraging an entrepreneurial mindset at various stages in the education system and providing skills training to entrepreneurs is key to cultural change. We call upon G20 governments to promote entrepreneurship in all levels of education and support companion programs that encourage “learning agility” and entrepreneurship culture and support SMEs and early-stage businesses (e.g. incubators, mentoring, funding, specific initiatives to encourage women entrepreneurs).
2. **Initiate development of G20-wide entrepreneur visa program:** A commitment to remove barriers to entrepreneurial success and to promote SME growth would send a powerful cultural signal. We call upon G20 governments to review bureaucratic barriers to enterprise formation and growth, promote harmonization of international standards to build SME capacity, and to explore a G20-wide entrepreneurs’ visa program to encourage international mobility.
3. **Adopt policies that address taxation and funding issues for entrepreneurs and high- impact SMEs:** As research has shown, government policies regarding taxation and funding send powerful messages about whether a country is culturally supportive of entrepreneurs. They are also cited as key reasons for the success – or failure – of entrepreneurs and high-growth SMEs. In order to encourage entrepreneurship and facilitate access to capital and new markets, we call upon the G20 governments to adopt progressive policy measures (e.g. separate tax categories for entrepreneurs and high-impact SMEs) related to tax and fiscal support for entrepreneurs, and encourage angel investment, venture capital, and private-equity investment to broaden and deepen SMEs’ access to alternative financing.
4. **Develop digital infrastructure and services as a foundation for future growth and innovation:** Digital infrastructure is at the heart of our innovation ecosystems, improving the performance of a broad range of companies, enabling them to bring new products to market and allowing them to work with multiple partners. Such collaboration boosts economic growth and the greater use of digital platforms will enable a stronger model of entrepreneurship and innovation. We call upon G20 governments to lead a process of collaboration that engages government, high-growth SMEs, businesses, and stakeholders in education and science in building the next generation of digital infrastructure.

5. **Focus on legal certainty and transparency:** Entrepreneurial growth and innovation requires a reliable legal framework for early-stage businesses and a transparent and streamlined process that will allow them to grow quickly. We call upon G20 governments to enact measures that ensure a progressive legal environment for entrepreneurs (including intellectual property protection) and practical measures (e.g. online information regarding international and regional standards, regulations and practices, etc.) that streamline their path to growth.
6. **Support research to better understand how to promote entrepreneurial culture and the ecosystems that support it:** To ensure that policies are based on best practices and objective data, we call upon G20 governments to directly engage G20 YEA member organizations, the World SME Forum, our knowledge partners and other relevant stakeholders to identify how an environment that encourages and supports to entrepreneurship can be promoted and maintained.
7. **Encourage collaboration between large corporations and entrepreneurs:**
A culture of entrepreneurship and growth relies on collaboration between all stakeholders, including large national/multinational corporations and earlier-stage businesses. We call upon the G20 governments to encourage such collaboration through their work with the B20 and through country-specific initiatives.

We, the leaders of organizations that support young entrepreneurs, urge the G20 Leaders to recognize in their communiqué the importance of encouraging a culture of entrepreneurship as a key way to address the world's twin challenges of slowing growth and rising youth unemployment.

Signed this on 9th day of September 2015 in Istanbul, Turkey.



G20
Young Entrepreneurs'
Alliance

Members of the Young Entrepreneur Alliance:

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