



Global Donor Platform  
for Rural Development

# Platform infoNote

September 2017

## G20 Summit in 2017 – development opportunities for the rural space

### // G20 Leaders' Declaration "shaping an interconnected world" – overview

In the [Leaders Declaration](#) issued after the G20 meeting in Hamburg, four policy priorities directly relate to agriculture and rural development. Next to fostering innovation and ensuring sustainable and resilient financial system, the G20 leaders commit to fulfilling the Paris agreement on climate change (N-1), boost employment and in particular rural youth employment, enhance women's empowerment and support globalised and fair trade regimes with special emphasis on agricultural market information systems. The declaration is complimented by the [Hamburg Action Plan](#) that outlines some policy priorities and a number of activities of G20 members to ensure inclusive growth of the global economy and strengthen the resilience of the international financial architecture. Agriculture and rural development play a role here only on the research or the operational level, in the listed existing initiatives by some G20 countries.

The [G20 Agriculture Ministers' Declaration](#) underlines the importance of agriculture contributing significantly to achieving a wide range of Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and their targets. The declaration calls for the enhanced use of Information and communication technologies (ITC) in agricultural production and for an *"open, rules-based, transparent, non-discriminatory and inclusive agricultural trading system"*.

Next to the declarations and the overall action plan, the G20 summit has brought about two major initiatives of great interest to the Platform membership – the G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment and the new G20 Africa Partnership. Both initiatives are intertwined and will frame many activities of Platform members as well as emerging donor agencies like Brazil, China and India. Next to analysing the potential of these initiatives and actions below, the Platform will follow up on the implementation in the context of its Agenda 2030 work stream.

### // G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment

[The G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment](#) gives another impetus and increases the momentum for enhanced efforts in youth empowerment, young agri-preneurship and youth employment on-farm and off- farm in the rural space. Following international finance institutions like AfDB with its flagship programme [Jobs for Youth in Africa](#), IFAD with its [strong focus on youth](#) in its lending portfolio and the [World Bank's youth summit](#), an increasing number of bilateral Platform members are investing into youth empowerment in general, juvenile migration and rural youth employment as part of their agriculture portfolio.

While global data on youth employment and agri-preneurship differ from source to source, G20 acknowledges that the group must commit to efforts that create opportunities for the 1.2 billion young people between 15 and 24 years of age and the estimated 440 million young Africans entering the labour market by 2030.

The agricultural sector is currently not employing the potential of African youth, giving them statistically less chances to get a job or to become an agri-preneur who can sustain a family at a mid-term perspective. Nevertheless, an increasing number of young urban people are turning to agriculture as seasonal migrants between the rural and the urban space, putting additional pressure on the demand for agricultural resources like land and water, particularly in Africa.

### // Areas of Action

The initiative is meant as a continuation of the G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework from 2014 and the G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems from 2015. The initiative constitutes the key element of the G20 Africa Partnership, but is not limited to this continent. There are six areas of action:

1. Alignment with international and development countries' strategies and policies, inter alia with CAADP and its institutions like AU/NEPAD and its continental policy framework like the Malabo Declaration and the African Youth Charta;
2. Closing data and knowledge gaps, because of the rather scarce information on youth and welcoming the AfDB initiatives "Enabling Youth Employment Index" and "Innovation and Information Lab" to generate reliable data;
3. Promoting a skills revolution underpinning economic growth and facilitating the entering of young people into the job market or becoming successful agri-preneurs. This area of action is built inter alia on the "AU Skills Initiative" with its Financing Facility and the NEPAD "Continental Strategy for Technical and Vocational Education and Training to foster Youth Employment";
4. Promoting rural employment in contexts of conflict, disaster, fragility and violence focusing on labour intensive work programmes for income generation and as alternative to youth engagement in conflicts and violence;
5. Improving equitable and sustainable access to land which is particularly difficult for young people anywhere in the world calling for the full implementation of the Voluntary Guidelines on the Responsible Governance of Tenure of Land, Fisheries and Forests (VGGT) with specific and targeted support to youth;
6. Increasing Responsible Investment and Financing for Rural Youth Employment with a specific focus on youth's access to financial services and specific provisions for the private sector to create the 1.1 million jobs, which the G20 aims to support through the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP);

### // Rural Youth employment – World Bank and IFAD paper for G20 Presidency

The G20 Presidency, Germany, through its Federal Ministry for Economic Development (BMZ), commissioned a general overview [study on Rural Youth Employment](#) as an input to the G20 Development Working Group. The paper gives interesting and detailed insights on why to focus on rural youth employment, where the opportunities for rural employment lay and how to realise them.

The study goes well beyond the usual calls for action, giving details on experiences of IFAD and the World Bank with regard to demand-side action such as infrastructure, supply and demand side of markets for AG products, climate-related investments, mechanisation and others.

On the supply side, the paper looks in detail at skills development matching rural youth to jobs, access to land and affordable finance. The study is youth-centric and its Implementation considerations recommend linking the support of youth empowerment in rural areas to existing policy / strategic frameworks like the Malabo Declaration for Africa.

## // G20 Africa Partnership

[G20 Africa Partnership and its pillars](#) was launched as a framework under which related initiatives of the G20 can be housed, in particular the newly launched *G20 Youth Employment Initiative*. The three pillars of the partnership are to improve inclusive economic growth and employment, develop quality infrastructure and strengthen the framework for private finance. To achieve these ambitious goals the partnership is open for G20 members, international organisations and interested partners to participate. The partnership aims to enhance the cooperation amongst the G20 members especially between the emerging donors like Brazil and China. This will further strengthen south-south cooperation organised in the context of the “Compact with Africa” which is the major instrument of the G20 Africa Partnership.

The African Union and the New Economic Partnership for Africa’s Development (NEPAD) have expressed interest in assuming a leading role in this partnership. For the Platform and the Development Partners Coordination Group (DPCG) it means that the Comprehensive Agriculture Development Programme (CAADP), its national compacts and National Agriculture Investment Plans (NAIPs) should be well positioned and coordinated with this new partnership and its pillars outlined below. It remains to be seen how this partnership will be integrated into existing continental, regional and national institutional and governance structures of Africa – see in particular the “Compact with Africa” below .

## // Conclusions

- The G20 Africa Partnership and the G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment are not sector-specific, but offer - through its endorsed wordings on rural youth, agriculture, food security and rural development - a great potential to engage with this G20 initiatives and the inherent processes – details should be discussed by the Platform and the working group Agenda 2030;
- With regard to the Platform’s general mandate to enhance development effectiveness and donor/IFI coordination, the [G7 Broad Food Security and Nutrition Development Approach](#) and the G20 initiatives Africa Partnership and Rural Youth Employment should be made subject to debate in the DPCG on an enhanced integration of sustainable agricultural production and agri-preneurship into CAADP by the strong political momentum of the G20, involving new development partners like China , Brazil and India and their institutions beyond the traditional bilateral donor agencies and IFIs;
- Platform to take up digitalization in agriculture, trade and market access, particularly for the empowerment of women – as called for WTO, G20 Ministers of Agriculture and others;

## // Useful Links

[The G20 Leaders Declaration](#), Hamburg, 7/8 July 2017

[The G20 Hamburg Action Plan](#), Annex to the G20 Leaders Declaration, 7/8 July 2017

[The G20 Agriculture Ministers’ Declaration](#), Towards food and water security: Fostering sustainability, advancing innovation

[G20 Africa Partnership](#), Annex to G20 Leaders Declaration, 7/8 July 2017

[G7 Broad Food Security and Nutrition Development Approach](#)

[The G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment](#), Annex to G20 Leaders Declaration, 7/8 July 2017

[Jobs for Youth in Africa](#), AfDB brochure on new priority

[IFAD and young people](#)

[World Bank's youth summit](#)

[IFAD and World Bank's paper on Rural Youth Employment](#) on behalf of the Federal Ministry for Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), Germany

[G7 Broad Food Security and Nutrition Development Approach](#)

[CAADP Programmatic and Institutional Overview](#)

#### Contact

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