



Task Force 11  
**Reforming the T20**

# REFORMING THE T20

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T20 NATIONAL COORDINATOR AND CHAIR



T20 CO-CHAIR



T20 SUMMIT CO-CHAIR



Università  
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# INTRODUCTION

The T20 has established itself as a global forum for reviewing evidence-based policies and proposals while helping refine and promote the G20's shared objectives and priorities by weaving a coherent, multilateral narrative that is based on international cooperation and understanding. For the T20 to be successful, it should be built on a foundation of transparency and accountability. If the T20 is truly to be an effective global forum it should be clear about its objectives and more transparent about its processes and members and accountable for its recommendations and commitments.

This document collects the ideas and proposals of the Co-Chairs of Task Force 11 "Reforming the T20", as well as other experts and colleagues who provided further inputs to reform and enhance the T20 process. It is divided into three Pillars (Governance & Financing; Diversity, Inclusion, Regional Context; Quality, Timing & Impact) advancing reform proposals on key challenges of the T20 process.



# PILLAR 1 - GOVERNANCE & FINANCING

*There is a wide consensus around making the T20 more inclusive, impactful, and transparent while preserving efficiency and agility and enhancing continuity across different T20 editions. An Advisory Group – a diverse committee reflecting a healthy geographic, gender, and interests balance – may provide support and advice to the rotating national Chair, which would keep its full independence and bear the main responsibility for the activities of the T20. This new body should also facilitate and support the broader participation of think tanks from non-G20 countries and, particularly, from the Global South.*

## **PROPOSAL:**

- **Establish an Advisory/Contact Group**

The Advisory/Contact Group provides support and advice to the T20 Chair and aims at promoting inclusiveness, organisational and thematic continuity, policy relevance of T20 products/outcomes, and effective engagement of the think tank community worldwide. In particular, its main task is twofold: to complement and advise the T20 Chair and to secure inclusion (see also Pillar 2), making sure that all major regions of the world are represented. It should be established before the formal yearly inception of the T20 and may also help the T20 Chair to find funding opportunities, especially with a view to favouring participation from the Global South.

The envisaged structure may have up to 12 members. These seats could be distributed as follows: three members from the troika (past, present, and future T20 Chairs to ensure continuity); three members appointed by the host country; six invitees (50% from G-20 and 50% from non-G20 countries) appointed by consensus by the troika also by taking into account gender balance and degree of engagement in the T20 process.

As a high level of public transparency and accountability is necessary, relevant information about the structure and workings of the Advisory/Contact Group could be made available on the website of future T20 editions.



## PILLAR 2 - DIVERSITY, INCLUSION, AND REGIONAL CONTEXT

*As the 'ideas bank of the G20', the T20 should involve think tanks from all G20 countries. However, significant participation from non-G20 countries – especially from MICs and the Global South – should be facilitated and supported. Particular attention should be given to the gender and geographical balance across all the activities of the T20.*

### PROPOSALS:

- **Launch an outreach effort** to the over 11,000 think tanks worldwide to engage them in the T20 process and help build support for the G20 agenda and the SDGs. Organise a dedicated virtual log of all think tanks, experts, government officials, and business leaders who have participated in T20 events which can be passed on from one T20 secretariat to the next.
- **Avoid intellectual dependency on the US or the EU** by mobilising resources to involve think tanks from the Global South – for instance, through a **“T20 policy research and travel grants programme”** and by **establishing guidelines on the number and diversity of authors’ background**.
- **Improve dialogue and discussion** in task forces and key events (e.g., Inception Conference and T20 summit). The T20 events should favour inclusiveness and be exchange oriented. Regular (online) task force discussions on relevant issues may help widening the T20 experts’ network.
- **Focus T20 production both on global challenges and specific regional issues.** Diversified policy briefs may help understand existing issues and the way to solve them. As some policy issues have been already experienced by advanced economies, they might inspire solutions for less developed economies.
- **Establish a platform to review the previous G20 Communiqué** with think tanks from the Global South – possibly on the occasion of the T20 Inception Conference or before – to deepen their knowledge about the Communiqué and increase the G20’s transparency and openness.
- **Promote and financially support think tanks’ North-South alliances.** A special emphasis should be put on encouraging joint research activities of think tanks representing “competing sides” (e.g., China and India/US, Iran and Saudi Arabia, Russia and Ukraine, etc.).



## PILLAR 3 - QUALITY, TIMING, AND IMPACT

*There is a necessity to update the way the T20 communicates its ideas globally and to find innovative formats for the digital era. People have a reduced attention span, so T20 products should be made more appealing and sometimes more “digestible” for a wider audience. The T20 should aim to create a virtual global community to engage and share ideas/proposals with. The T20 should also further strengthen its links with the formal G20 process and structures.*

### PROPOSALS:

- **Schedule both introductory and final meetings of T20 Chairs and Co-Chairs with the G20 Presidency** to align the scope of the research or work on immediate challenges under consideration by policymakers before presenting the finished work. **Schedule time with G20 Working Groups to present their work to the T20 and involve multilateral organisations** as well (e.g., OECD, the IMF, World Bank, FSB).
- **Have higher coordination and outreach activities with other engagement groups:** the number of joint statements should be increased. **Align T20 and B20**, arguably the most vibrant and influential engagement groups: cross-participate in forums; have a joint strategy to promote ideas and proposals in each other’s networks, and have B20 and T20 experts as ‘observers’ in each other’s meetings/task forces; host T20 and B20 task force meetings together; identify and develop ideas that have emerged both in the T20 and the B20 simultaneously.
- **Introduce ‘memo’ style policy briefs** that directs the proposal to a specific policymaker (e.g., IMF Managing Director, FSB Chair, Director-General WTO, G20 Sherpas, etc.) **and ‘think pieces’ style Policy Briefs (PBs)** that enables more ‘blue sky’ research and new concepts to be presented to policymakers.
- **Have fewer and more impactful PBs:** task forces may produce only two or three joint policy briefs yearly, addressing – and focusing on – a limited number of issues. In addition, each task force could write a few, more in-depth background papers, which may also form the basis of joint follow-up publications (e.g., in academic journals). PBs proposals may be combined not only within task forces but across task forces, too.
- **The dissemination of PBs** should be adjusted to the timeline of the official G20 process and not released all at once shortly before the G20 summit. **Dissemination should go beyond T20/G20** and target civil society to counter populism and address “democratic deficits” - for example, through a press briefing kit. Digitise the T20 process, including the status of policy briefs and proceedings. Facilitate dissemination to the wider public with short promotional videos (2-3 minutes), tweets/posts on social media, and brief-



ings. This will facilitate indexing and the adoption of the T20's recommendations and uptake of its research efforts by global, regional, and national governments around the world

- **Policy proposals should differentiate between short-term, medium-term, and long-term goals** so that policy recommendations on immediate issues such as Covid-19 can get as much attention as other medium and long-term issues. **Aggregate policy proposals from the T20** (not necessarily as a Communiqué or joint statement) into a 'menu' of solutions or 'ideas bank' for policymakers to browse 'à la carte'. This document could be produced annually and **present a consolidated list of recommendations** over the years on the same subject. It could also **include 'blue sky' policy proposals** and issues that are not necessarily on the G20 agenda.
- Develop a **Young Leaders Group** around the T20, where each year 15-20 young people are chosen also to participate in parallel events. Selection may be based on a written contribution and an oral presentation.