

# **Global Solutions Summit 2025**

Bridging Divides: New Pathways for Global Prosperity

# Program Booklet

Updated May 2<sup>nd</sup>, 2025. Subject to Change. For the most updated information, please visit global-solutions-summit.org.



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## ABOUT THE GLOBAL SOLUTIONS SUMMIT 2025

Bridging Divides: New Pathways for Global Prosperity

Given today's heightened global tensions, public trust in policymakers is being eroded, which is intensifying the threat posed by populism and nationalism. The joint financing of global solutions and fraught trade relations—which are being further exacerbated by unilateral demands on global trade—are two significant sources of this global tension. Moreover, the effects of the climate crisis are a constant strain, impacting people's lives across the world. Uncertainty about how technological advancements can be harnessed for the common good is also compounding a wide-spread feeling of uncertainty about the future.

Against this backdrop, the Global Solutions Summit (GSS) has assembled those who believe that the future can be shaped through collaboration, and that sovereignty in the twenty-first century results from global collaboration and mutual respect. Global prosperity and solutions are the result of dialogue, an active civil society, and international cooperation. Working together, we must find solutions to our shared challenges, which should be based on facts, research, and multilateral processes.

To achieve this, we must fortify, expand, and re-invent multilateral structures so that they are capable of coping with the challenges we face today. By pursuing ways to better harness the power of multilateralism, we can achieve sustainable prosperity and peace for all. This mission is the cornerstone of the GSS.

Since its inception in 2017, it has fostered international cooperation and collaborative progress on global challenges. The Summit has consistently created a space for collective action, which can lead to powerful and effective solutions. While it brings together stakeholders from diverse countries with different perspectives and approaches, they are all united by the conviction that major challenges can only be solved together and for mutual benefit.

While polarization is the driver of a counter-narrative—that of self-reliance and isolationism—the GSS remains a crucial advocate for shared global prosperity. It is a festival of ideas for global governance, where academia, governments, civil society, and businesses come together, driven by the shared goal of promoting human flourishing all over the world. This collaborative spirit is essential for creating global solutions.

The recent G20 presidencies from the Global South have achieved a renewed focus on inequality, sustainable development, and global governance. They have highlighted the importance of addressing them collectively, regardless of geopolitical tensions. The GSS aligns with this vision because inclusive and collaborative approaches are needed to solve the world's most pressing problems.

BRIDGING DIVIDES:
NEW PATHWAYS FOR GLOBAL PROSPERITY

The stable network of the GSS and its established relation to the G20 and G7 (and other global governance fora) guarantees continuity in an uncertain global environment. Moreover, it enables the implementation of global solutions. Its unique relationship with the G20 and G7 ensures that the ideas discussed at the Summit have a direct pathway to global policymaking. By bridging the gap between stakeholders and the G20, the GSS fulfills a key function for good global governance. It is not only a summit; it is a constant enabler of strategic thinking and innovative action towards a more cooperative and prosperous world.



## **FORUM**

AUDIMAX (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) - This track offers a high-level view of global issues and policy approaches.

Opening: Day 1

May 5, 9:30 - 10:15 CEST

#### Greetings:

• Claudia Brüninghaus, Head of Activities and Events, Global Solutions Initiative (GSI)

#### Keynote:

• Alaa Murabit, Executive Director of Sustainable and Resilient Growth, 500 Global; Former UN High-level Commissioner on Health Employment and Economic Growth

#### Greetings:

• Jörg Rocholl, President, European School of Management and Technology (ESMT) Berlin

#### Opening Summit Address:

• Dennis J. Snower, Founder and President, GSI

Keynote: Alaa Murabit

May 5, 9:35 – 9:45 CEST

In her keynote, Alaa calls for bold leadership and equitable, locally driven solutions that prioritize resilience, agency, and justice.



## Flourishing-centered Growth and Development Model

May 5, 10:30 - 11:15 CEST

Many prominent challenges of the twenty-first century—such as populism, nationalism, and resistance to globalization—derive from the disconnect between economic and social prosperity. While GDP per capita has steadily increased over recent decades, this economic growth has not translated into greater societal well-being or environmental sustainability. In response, a new growth and development model is being proposed, which balances economic, social, and environmental outcomes. It also accounts for the uncertainty in policymaking and business by emphasizing adaptability and resilience.

The new growth and development model rests on new types of social contracts, bringing the economic, social, and environmental needs of citizens and the purpose of business into closer alignment with the objectives of national governments, and bringing the objectives of national governments into closer alignment with multilateral institutions.

- Richard Samans, Senior Fellow, Geneva Graduate Institute for International and Development Studies
- Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Chief Executive, the South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
- John W. McArthur, Director and Senior Fellow, Center for Sustainable Development (CSD), Brookings Institution
- Moderator: Declan Curry, Business Journalist

## Geopolitical Challenges to Industrial Decarbonization

May 5, 11:30 - 12:30 CEST

Ensuring a stable global supply chain is crucial to the world's sustainable development, particularly towards decarbonization efforts throughout the value chain of various cornerstone industries and products. Rising trade tensions and tariff wars, the ever-increasing demand for critical minerals, and risks to global energy security due to geopolitical tensions jeopardize the stability needed to ensure global collaboration on reducing CO2 emissions—a critical step towards the sustainable development goals (SDGs). This is particularly problematic for energy-intensive industries, such as manufacturing, mining, and transportation.

Additionally, the attempt to reshore and friendshore clean technology production networks has triggered debates on the merits of free trade and globalization, broadened energy security concerns, and prompted new South-South relations and regionalisms.

This session will explore these issues in the current geopolitical context and discuss some concrete steps that various stakeholder groups can take to overcome these challenges, which are significant obstacles to the decarbonization efforts in energy-intensive industries.

- Ingrid Gabriela Hoven, Managing Director, Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ)
- Henry Wang, President, Center for China and Globalization (CCG) (Virtual)
- Isabelle Durant, Former Deputy Secretary-General of the United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
- Amar Bhattacharya, Senior Fellow, Global Economy and Development, Center for Sustainable Development, Brookings Institute
- Moderator: Katie Gallus, International Moderator and Journalist

Fireside Chat: Kenyan Cabinet Secretary for Cooperatives and MSMEs, Wycliffe Oparanya

May 5, 13:45 - 14:05 CEST

The conversation will discuss approaches to enhancing financial inclusion and promoting the growth of Micro, Small, and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) as essential pillars of economic transformation.



## Just Energy Transition and Decarbonization

May 5, 14:15 - 15:00 CEST

The ultimate objective of the energy transition is clear: decarbonizing the global energy system in order to achieve net-zero emissions. The ultimate replacement of hydrocarbons with renewable power will be fundamental to this process. For the transition to be successful, it is crucial to recognize that it must involve the managed decline of the existing energy status quo and a pivot towards a future state in a just manner. There are myriad challenges surrounding this, which are economic, social, institutional, environmental, and technical in nature, such as the misaligned market incentives for environmental externalities, the differences in priorities between developed and developing nations, and the globalization of trade. Consequently, one needs a common understanding of the drivers required to move beyond these challenges and towards a future energy state that is inclusive and just for all.

While there has been broad progress on cleaner and more sustainable energy, which has been driven by narratives on environmental and sustainability concerns, it has been accompanied by questions regarding the equity, inclusivity, and social acceptability of the transition. The speakers in this session will aim to address policy solutions towards more meaningful progress in the transition, one that simultaneously provides energy security and access while also facilitating economic growth and development. This will require a reconciliation of approaches that reflect varied starting points for different actors, as well as diversity in policy approaches and priorities.

- Leonhard Birnbaum, CEO, E.ON
- Stefan Kapferer, CEO, 50Hertz
- Izabella Teixeira, member of the International Advisory Board, the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI); Former Minister of the Environment, Brazil
- Moderator: Conny Czymoch

Keynote: EU Commissioner Jessika Roswall

May 5, 15:00 - 15:15 CEST

This keynote, titled "Putting Nature on the Balance Street", explores the urgent need to invest in nature and resilience. It highlights the role of private finance and nature credits - complementing, not replacing, public funding - and outlines emerging global trends and upcoming EU initiatives shaping the future of nature-positive investment.

Keynote: Candidate for Director General of UNESCO, Gabriela Ramos

May 5, 15:15 - 15:30 CEST

This keynote will focus on new approaches to global collaboration.



# Beyond Regulation and Innovation-at-All-Costs: Data Agency as the Foundation for Citizen Empowerment

May 5, 16:30 – 16:45 CEST

Moving beyond the EU vs US digital divide, this keynote explores how we can shift from centralized platforms to people-powered digital infrastructure—where voice, choice, and data agency drive a more democratic internet.

## Keynote Speaker:

• Sheila Warren, CEO, Project Liberty Institute



## Young Global Changers Recoupling Awards

May 5, 17:00 - 18:15 CEST

The Young Global Changers (YGC) program, which started in 2017, brings together a diverse group of young innovators who are committed to transforming economies and societies for a more sustainable and equitable future. Since its inception, it has engaged over 500 young professionals, social entrepreneurs, nonprofit leaders, students, and activists from over 120 countries, all dedicated to creating positive change at a local, regional, and global level.

The program aims to identify, connect, and empower these changemakers, who are already leading initiatives in their respective communities. By joining this global network, they gain access to a powerful multistakeholder platform, which helps amplify their impact. Each year, up to 60 young changemakers are selected, and the fifteen Finalists have the opportunity to showcase their work at the Global Solutions Summit in Berlin. Here, they interact with leaders from government, business, academia, and civil society.

Additionally, the Summit highlights the annual YGC Recoupling Awards, recognizing outstanding projects across three categories: reimagine business, social and climate action, and civic engagement. The top three initiatives in each category receive prize money, boosting their efforts and providing valuable exposure and networking opportunities. This support empowers young changemakers to continue driving positive change in their communities and beyond.

#### 2025 Young Global Changers Finalists:

- Abiola Durodola, Nigeria, PromiseTrackerNG
- Adam Miller, Indonesia/USA, Planet Indonesia
- Allison Choong, Malaysia, Safiya Speaks Up
- Anisha Sharma, India, Careleavers Inner Circle Forum (CLiC)
- Christiana Okere, Nigeria, myStash
- Edward Krutsch, Australia, Run For It
- Elena Martínez Martínez, Spain, SOS Biotech
- Esther Kimani (represented by Jacob Rugano), Kenya, <u>Farmer Lifeline Technologies</u> Limited
- Maria Fernanda De la Hoz Escorcia, Colombia, Mi Voz Mi Región
- Mark Joseph Laceste, Philippines, Lalakbayin Ecoventures
- Mohammed Sohail Zulfigar, India, The Footpath School
- Patricia Zanella, Brazil, EcoCiclo
- Shamsiyyah Umar, Nigeria, We Are Special
- Stephen Bright Sakwa, Uganda, <u>Bees & Trees Uganda</u>
- Thaís Zschieschang, Brazil, Delibera Brasil

#### Moderators:

- Ole Spies, Head of Youth-Led Change (Young Global Changers, Social Entrepreneurship & Civil Society Programs), GSI
- Declan Curry, Business Journalist

Closing: Day 1

May 5, 18:15 - 18:30 CEST

- Vidisha Mishra, Director of Global Outreach and Policy, GSI
- Claudia Brüninghaus, Head of Activities and Events, GSI

Opening: Day 2

May 6, 9:30 - 10:00 CEST

#### Greetings:

- Claudia Brüninghaus, Head of Activities and Events, GSI
- Christian Kastrop, CEO and Partner, GSI

## Keynote:

• Macky Sall, Former Senegalese President

#### In conversation:

- Contimi Kenfack Mouafo, Young Global Changer Ambassador for Africa
- Isabell Steidel, Y20/Y7 Delegate of Germany (2023-24)

Keynote: H.E. Macky Sall

May 6, 9:40 - 9:50 CEST

This keynote will discuss the role of Africa in modern multilateralism.



## G20 at 20: The Future of the G20 in a Changing World

May 6, 10:00 - 11:00 CEST

This session is curated together with the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD).

As South Africa completes the first cycle of G20 Presidencies, this panel will bring together G20 Sherpas and Sous Sherpas to reflect on the G20's role as the world's premier forum for international economic co-operation in an increasingly fragmented and complex international context. The discussion will focus on the G20's achievements and key initiatives since its elevation to a Leaders'-level forum in 2008, as well as on gaps and challenges it has faced over the years. Reflections by panelists will cover G20 working methods, representativeness, and thematic priorities, to identify potential areas of reform to ensure the G20 remains fit-for-purpose under its next cycle of Presidencies.

- Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development; UN sous Sherpa to the G20
- Federico Pinedo, G20 Sherpa, Argentina
- Emma María Aparici Vazquez De Parga, G20 Co-Sherpa and Secretary General of Foreign Affairs, Office of the Prime Minister, Spain
- Henrik Harboe, G20 Sherpa, Ministry of Foreign Affairs, Norway
- Abhishek Singh, Sous-Sherpa for G20, BRICS, IBSA (India, Brazil, South Africa forum), and the Ministry of External Affairs, India
- Sara Silva, AU Sous-Sherpa to the G20; Director for Multilateral Affairs, Ministry of External Relations of Angola
- Moderator: Andreas Schaal, OECD Sherpa and Director; Global Relations and Cooperation Directorate, OECD



T20 Session: The Changing Landscape of Multilateralism: Navigating Global Power Shifts

May 6, 11:15 - 12:15 CEST

The world is grappling with multiple overlapping crises: political polarization, the rise of farright movements, escalating conflicts, and the existential threat of climate change. Amid this turmoil, the mechanisms of international cooperation are increasingly strained. The current geopolitical climate, most notably the new U.S. administration, highlights these tensions as global agreements are being reevaluated or abandoned altogether.

This session will critically examine how these pressures are reshaping the landscape of international cooperation, addressing questions such as the following: What does multilateralism look like in an era of division? How can we resist the pull towards fragmentation and foster solidarity in the face of diverging interests and priorities?

Through a forward-looking dialogue, we will explore pragmatic pathways for nations, institutions, and communities to work together on addressing vital global public goods. While the challenges are immense, this session seeks to identify strategies for building resilient and inclusive forms of global collaboration that can endure and even thrive in a fractured world.

- Cheri Bustos, Former Congresswoman; Chair of the Political Arm of House Democrats, and Senior Leader in Congress, U.S. House of Representatives
- María Fernanda Espinosa Garcés, Executive Director, GWL Voices for Change and Inclusion; 73rd President, UN General Assembly; Former Minister of Foreign Affairs, Republic of Ecuador (virtual)
- Philani Mthembu, Executive Director, Institute for Global Dialogue (IGD)
- Henry Wang, Founder and President, Center for China and Globalization (CCG) (virtual)
- Bryan Lanza, Former Communications Director for President Donald J. Trump's Transition Team
- Moderator: Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson, Host, Common Ground



## Reimagining Global Collaboration

This session is curated together with the Center for International Governance Innovation (CIGI).

May 6, 12:30 - 13:15 CEST

In a world marked by climate shocks, technological disruption, deepening inequality, and fractured geopolitics – the credibility of global governance hinges not just on bold ideas, but on their implementation. Yet a persistent gap remains between evidence and action, especially in the context of the escalating climate crisis. At a time when alignment is harder, but more necessary than ever, how can think tanks and civil society actors step up – not just as sources of policy insight, but as force multipliers for accountability, ambition, and execution.

This session brings together leading think tanks and CSOs from the G7 (Canada), G20 (South Africa), and CoP 2025 (Brazil) processes to forge evidence-driven, actionable pathways for enhancing multilateral cooperation. Anchored in key climate action proposals identified in T7 Canada's recent Communique, the discussion will identify synergies with T20 South Africa and other multilateral fora to overcome implementation barriers across the Global South-North and advance collective action.

- Patricia Fuller, President and CEO, International Institute for Sustainable Development (IISD)
- Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Executive Director, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA), T20 South Africa
- Holy Ranaivozanany, Deputy Executive Director, Africa-Europe Foundation
- Izabella Teixeira, Trustee Emeritus, Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI) (CoP)
- Moderator: Paul Samson, President, CIGI, T7 Canada



## Green Industrial Policy as a Driver of Economic Transformation

May 6, 14:00 - 14:45 CEST

In recent years, we have seen an increasing use of green industrial policy instruments. This shift marks a departure from traditional economic paradigms and highlights the growing recognition that sustainable industrialization is not just an environmental necessity, but an economic opportunity. For emerging and developing economies, green industrial policies offer a pathway to enhanced competitiveness, job creation, and long-term resilience in a rapidly changing global economy.

Despite these opportunities, structural challenges persist. Changing geopolitical conditions, high capital costs, and protectionist policies threaten to slow the green transition; additionally, many developing countries are having to balance climate commitments with pressing development priorities. The current fragmentation of multilateral cooperation further complicates efforts to support low-carbon industrialization at scale.

This session will explore questions such as the following: What role must the state play in competitiveness, and job creation? How can governments effectively design green industrial policies that align with national development strategies and global economic shifts? What mechanisms—ranging from multilateral agreements to targeted financing instruments—can enable emerging economies to adopt sustainable economic models? How can green technology deployment be accelerated to reduce transition costs while also ensuring continued material progress?

It will also explore actionable strategies for promoting green and inclusive industrialization approaches, addressing economic and political constraints and leveraging green technologies to drive sustainable economic development. It will highlight how a well-designed green industrial strategy can unlock new growth pathways and position developing economies as leaders in the industries of the future.

- Izabella Teixeira, Member of the International Advisory Board, the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI); Former Minister of the Environment, Brazil
- Nicola Brandt, Head of OECD Berlin Center
- Patricia Fuller, President and CEO, International Institute for Sustainable Development
- Moderator: Eric Beinhocker, Founder and Executive Director, the Institute for New Economic Thinking (INET)

Fireside Chat: Valbona Zeneli

May 6, 14:55 - 15:15 CEST

The speakers will discuss the implications of today's geopolitical challenges on multilateral institutions, democratic resilience, and sustainable development.

- Valbona Zeneli, Senior Fellow for Peace, Security and Defense, Friends of Europe
- Moderator: Soraya Sarhaddi Nelson



## Beyond Profit: Public Interest Technologies for Democratic Digital Futures

May 6, 15:30 - 16:30 CEST

Digital tools are transforming governance, but not always in ways that align with democratic values. While debates on democracy and human rights in the digital and artificial intelligence (AI) age are widespread, they have yet to translate into a thriving ecosystem of successful public interest software ventures.

This panel explores the incentives driving the development of public interest technologies and the systemic shifts needed to support them. Questions such as the following will be addressed: Who is building these tools and what motivates them? How can we create the conditions for them to succeed? How do we move beyond conventional profit-driven models towards cooperative or solidarity-based frameworks that align with democratic ideals? Drawing from decentralized systems and cooperative models in other sectors, builders of public interest technologies will share bold ideas and practical strategies for fostering a digital landscape that prioritizes the public good over private gain.

- Felix Hlatky, CFO, Mastodon
- Udbhav Tiwari, Vice-President of Strategy and Global Affairs, Signal Messenger
- Matthias Pfeffer, Director, Council for European Public Space
- Natalia Carfi, Executive Director, Open Data Charter
- Sheila Warren, CEO, Project Liberty Institute
- Gerard Rinse Oosterwijk, Advisor to Alex Agius Saliba MEP (vice-President of the S&D group in the European Parliament on Communication and Campaigns, and Digital Agenda), European Parliament
- Moderator: Paul Nemitz, Former Principal Adviser on the Digital Transition, EU Commission

## G20 Policy Recommendations Handover

May 6, 16:30 - 16:45 CEST

- Rodrigo Belaunde, Lead Analyst, G20 (Sherpa Track), OECD
- Yamunna Rao, Head of Summit and Content, GSI
- Andries Oosthuizen, Minister Plenipotentiary; Deputy Head of Mission, South African Embassy in Germany



## Announcement of the Winner for the 2025 Global Solutions Community Award

May 6, 16:45 - 17:00 CEST

As part of the 2025 Global Solutions Summit, we are thrilled to announce the winner of the Global Solutions Community Award - a special honor voted on by all Summit attendees. After engaging with the 15 showcased projects by the Young Global Changers, each guest casts their vote using a coin received at registration. The project that receives the most votes will be revealed during the Closing Ceremony of the Summit.

- Ole Spies, Head of Youth-Led Change (Young Global Changers, Social Entrepreneurship & Civil Society Programs), GSI
- Claudia Brüninghaus, Head of Activities and Events, GSI

## Closing of the Global Solutions Summit 2025

May 6, 17:00 - 17:30 CEST

- Susanne Staufer, Managing Director, GSI
- Claudia Brüninghaus, Head of Activities and Events, GSI



## **DEEP DIVES**

Audi I (2<sup>nd</sup> Floor) - This track offers participants a space to present, test, and discuss concrete ideas and proposals.

T20 Session: Al and the Future of Work: Reimagining Resilience in an Age of Uncertainty

May 5, 10:30 - 11:30 CEST

While the productivity potential and technological capabilities of AI, including generative AI (GenAI), remain uncertain, its rapid proliferation is already reshaping the world of work and labor, necessitating urgent discussions on how these changes will recast socio-economic systems. The rise of GenAI is already reshaping the world of work, automating tasks ranging from customer service and clerical roles to coding and digital artistry. Ideally, GenAI and artificial general intelligence (AGI) should complement human capabilities, but this will depend on urgent and robust policy safeguards and decisive governance, powered by multistakeholder cooperation. This session focuses on the critical implications of AI on the future of work, education, and skills. It also focuses on fundamental labor rights and well-being, including highlighting variations across the Global South–Global North. It will highlight the new abilities, social protections, and global policy frameworks and regulations needed to ensure an equitable and just transition.

- Matt Prewitt, President, RadicalxChange
- Ana Dujić, Director General, German Federal Ministry of Labor and Social Affairs
- Anita Gurumurthy, Founding Member and Executive Director, IT for Change
- Aart Jan De Geus, Former Minister of Labor, the Netherlands
- Emily M. Dickens, Chief of Staff, Head of Government Affairs, and Corporate Secretary, Society for Human Resource Management
- Moderator: Ron Ivey, GSI Fellow



# Catalyzing Digital Infrastructure Solutions for Data Agency: Launch of Global Toolkit

May 5, 11:45 - 12:45 CEST

This session is curated together with Project Liberty.

In this session, the Project Liberty Institute and the Global Solutions Initiative launch the Global Toolkit for Catalyzing Digital Infrastructure Solutions for Data Agency, which was developed through multistakeholder consultations in Paris, Washington D.C., and Waterloo, Canada.

The session will delve into how governments can catalyze digital infrastructure solutions that enhance data agency and foster a fair data economy. Drawing from the Toolkit, the discussion will explore best practices for creating equitable digital ecosystems. The session will highlight insights from initiatives such as mapping existing efforts and engaging multistakeholder perspectives. It aims to benefit governments, civil society, and digital infrastructure service providers.

- Christian Kastrop, CEO and Partner, GSI
- Jeb Bell, Head of Strategic Insights and Academic Partnerships, Project Liberty Institute
- Emma Ghariani, Head of the Open Source and Digital Commons Division, French Interministerial Digital Directorate
- Mehdi Snene, Senior Advisor on Al and Digital Transformation, Office of the UN Secretary-General's Envoy on Technology
- Paul Samson, President, Centre for Internation Governance Innovation; T7 Canada host
- Nicole Manger, Fellow, GSI
- Moderator: Sarah Nicole, Policy and Research Manager and Governance Lead, Project Liberty Institute



## T20 Session: Future-proofing Food Security for Resilient Societies

May 5, 14:00 - 15:15 CEST

This session is curated together with AKADEMIYA2063.

Global food systems are under increasing pressure from a convergence of challenges: shifting governance priorities and a reduction in traditional Official Development Assistance (ODA) threaten already fragile systems; conflicts and protracted crises disrupt critical agricultural production and global supply chains, impacting the right to food; and systemic market failures limit businesses' incentives to drive change. In parallel, decentralized evidence generation, persistent youth unemployment, gender exclusion, and the inconsistent implementation of multilateral initiatives erode trust and hinder progress.

This session is a dialogue among critical stakeholders, aligning with the South African G20 Presidency's priorities. It aims to map a collective vision to future-proof food security, improve nutrition, and tackle the systemic barriers undermining progress in SDGs 1, 2, 5, and 10. By integrating food and nutrition security into macroeconomic policies and fostering cross-sector collaboration, this session aims to highlight actionable pathways to implement policies (up to the grassroots level) and scale investments, and to create/advance accountability frameworks. With stability, inclusion, and social justice at its core, investments and partnerships remain vital for building peaceful and resilient food systems.

- Zubaida Bai, President and CEO, Grameen Foundation
- Roswitha Knol, Director of Operations for Smallholder Agroforestry Finance, Rabobank
- Ousmane Badiane, Executive Chairperson, AKADEMIYA2063
- Shenggen Fan, Professor and Dean of the Academy of Global Food Economics and Policy (AGFEP), China Agricultural University (CAU)
- Hamadi Boga, Vice President, Alliance for a Green Revolution in Africa (AGRA)
- Maria Wichmann, BMZ
- Mapule Maema, Programme Associate-Consultant, Economic Justice Network; Civil20 South Africa
- Moderator: Máximo Torero Cullen, Chief Economist, Food and Agriculture Organization (FAO); Member of T20 Task Force 4

## Economic Inequality: A Systemic Risk to Global Cooperation

May 5, 15:30 - 16:30 CEST

There are currently profound challenges affecting multilateral efforts to address global issues such as climate change, development, global health, and debt relief. One of the core factors leading to this is economic inequality. It has reached such unprecedented levels that the growing disparities between and within nations are eroding trust, fostering protectionism, fueling geopolitical instability, and weakening international institutions. Ultimately, this is limiting the effectiveness of global problem solving.

Economic inequality is a deeply systemic issue that requires systemic solutions. Therefore, this session will discuss some of these solutions, including progressive taxation, in particular of the ultrarich; effective social spending policies; the evolving influence of philanthropies; and the crucial role of good governance in ensuring these measures are successfully implemented. In this context, the efforts of the Brazilian President Luiz Inácio Lula da Silva's to push for taxing the ultra-high-net-worth individuals within the G20, firmly taken forward by the current South African G20 presidency, as well as the establishment of the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty are noteworthy.

- Melanie Hauenstein, Director, UNDP Germany
- Nkateko Chauke, Acting Executive Director, Oxfam South Africa
- Stephanie Brockerhoff, Global Lead for Program Design and Impact, BRAC International
- Kizito Byenkya, Advocacy Director, Open Society Foundations
- Riska Koopman, Policy Research and Advocacy Officer, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)
- Moderator: Ellen Ehmke, Senior Expert Inequality, Robert Bosch Stiftung



# Digital Sovereignty at a Crossroads: Fragmenting Global Tech Regulatory Landscape

This session is curated together with the Global Initiative for Digital Empowerment (GIDE).

May 5, 16:45 - 17:45 CEST

Recent attempts to create unified global frameworks for digital regulation have resulted in a fractured international landscape. The EU and other countries have pursued robust safety-oriented regulations, while the US Congress has generally favored market-driven approaches, although some administrations have pursued litigation. Autocratic regimes have implemented restrictive regulations, potentially compromising free speech and privacy; nevertheless, international bodies—such as the OECD; G20; G7; UNESCO—have continued collaboration efforts on digital economy norms, including AI and cybersecurity standards.

The current Trump administration appears to be challenging these multilateral initiatives through unilateral actions, including threats of tariffs. In February 2025, it directed a reinvestigation of digital services taxes in European countries and scrutiny of EU digital regulations. The administration also reversed cautious AI policies in favor of accelerated innovation. The international response has been one of concern, and conflict over digital sovereignty may continue to intensify across multiple regions.

The session will explore likely responses from major players, middle powers and consider implications for consumers. It will also consider whether a move to fully empowered consumers rather than mere government regulation could be a less conflictual path to guiding the digital economy, looking at potential impact for global innovation, competition, consumer protection, and consequences for non-liberal regimes.

- Michael Chertoff, former US Secretary for Homeland Security, Chairman at Chertoff Group (virtual)
- Lindsay Gorman, Managing Director and Senior Fellow, German Marshall Fund of the United States Technology Program (virtual)
- Peter Alexiadis, Visiting Scholar, Catholic University of Lille and KEDGE Business School; Research Fellow, Center on Regulation in Europe (virtual)
- Fen Hampson, Professor of International Affairs, Carleton University (virtual)
- Erika Mann, former MEP; Senior Policy Advisor, Covington & Burling LLP
- Charles Mok, Research Scholar, Cyber Policy Center at Stanford University (virtual)

- Paul Nemitz, former Principal Advisor, European Commission; Visiting Professor of Law, the College of Europe
- Moderator: Paul Twomey, Co-Chairman, GIDE



Across Sectors, Across Aisles: US Perspectives on Global Leadership before the 2026 G20

May 5, 18:00- 18:45 CEST

As the United States prepares to host the G20 in 2026, the world is watching closely to see how it will define its role in a time of global uncertainty and disruption. With economic turbulence, evolving international dynamics, and mounting demands for inclusive and sustainable solutions, the U.S. agenda will have ripple effects far beyond its borders.

This session brings together a set of U.S. voices across aisles and sectors - from policy to philanthropy and business - offering different views on the forces shaping American global engagement. Drawing from experience across multiple administrations and sectors, panelists will explore the competing priorities and domestic pressures influencing the road to 2026 - and what the world can expect from a pivotal G20 presidency.

- Cheri Bustos, Former Congresswoman, Chair of the Political Arm of House Democrats, and Senior Leader in Congress, U.S. House of Representatives
- Michael Hardaway, Former Advisor to President Obama and Democratic Leader Jeffries
- Bryan Lanza, Former Communications Director, Trump Presidential Transition Team; Former Deputy Communications Director, Trump-Pence 2016 Presidential Campaign
- Moderator: Steven Beardsley, Deutsche Welle



## Flourishing-centered Economic Paradigm

May 6, 11:15 - 12:00 CEST

Economic success has become decoupled from social and environmental well-being, highlighting the need for a new paradigm that reconnects these dimensions. The flourishing-centered economic paradigm addresses this by embedding economic activity within social, political, and environmental systems. It offers an explanation for how economic prosperity can become decoupled from and then recoupled with broader human and planetary flourishing.

This new economic paradigm provides a framework for designing policies, business practices, and institutions that promote flourishing. Flourishing-focused policies aim to redirect the activities of the public and private sectors toward social and environmental success, enabling people to fulfil their potential and the natural world to thrive.

- Achim Steiner, Administrator, UNDP (pre-recorded keynote address)
- David Sloan Wilson, President, ProSocial World
- Michael Muthukrishna, Professor, London School of Economics
- Melanie Hauenstein, Director, UNDP Germany
- Sandrine Dixson-Declève, Honorary President, The Club of Rome
- Moderator: Uwe Heuser, World Economic Correspondent, Die ZEIT

# Measuring Human Flourishing

May 6, 12:15 - 13:15 CEST

Many global issues—such as climate change, inequality, and financial instability—derive from a deficiency in the moral foundations of capitalism. These collective action problems persist because current measures of prosperity, such as GDP, fail to capture the true well-being of people and the planet. A more holistic approach to measuring prosperity is needed, one that includes economic, social, and environmental domains. The economic domain focuses on sustaining life with dignity without harming others. The social domain emphasizes social solidarity and individual and collective agency. The environmental domain highlights the responsible use, protection, and regeneration of natural ecosystems. This new framework is guided by four key principles: universalizability—ensuring global relevance; simplicity—limiting the focus to key well-being components; regularity—tracking well-being as often as GDP; and national scope and duration—applying these measures widely and consistently over time.

- Dennis J. Snower, Founder and President, Global Solutions Initiative
- Sabina Alkire, Director of the Oxford Poverty and Human Development Initiative (OPHI), Oxford University
- Martine Durand, Member of the French Statistics Authority; Former OECD Chief Statistician
- Timothy Lomas, Psychology Research Scientist on the Human Flourishing Program, Harvard University
- Kiki Papachristoforou, Associate Principal of Global Analytics, Gallup
- Nicola Brandt, Head of the OECD Berlin Center
- Moderator: Uwe Heuser, World Economic Correspondent, Die ZEIT



# T20 Session: Preventing the Looming Sovereign Debt Crisis

May 6, 14:00 - 15:15 CEST

Sovereign debt levels have reached record highs, with many low- and middle-income countries in or at risk of debt distress. This hampers economic development, limits the fiscal space available for social and environmental needs, and stands in the way of the green transition in many countries. Combined with high interest rates, critical debt levels also endanger the stability of the global financial system and pose a concrete risk, with the capacity to trigger the next major financial crisis. Major economies, such as the US, the EU, and China, have also reached debt-to-GDP ratios that are historically high.

While progress has been made in international debt restructuring—especially with China's participation in the G20 Common Framework—advances remain too slow and insufficient. Additionally, the evolving creditor landscape over the past two decades has further complicated negotiations. Without concrete reforms, inclusive growth in developing countries will remain out of reach.

- Riska Koopman, Policy Research and Advocacy Officer, African Forum and Network on Debt and Development (AFRODAD)
- Richard H. Carey, Senior Fellow, African Center for Economic Transformation
- Yunnan Chen, Research Fellow on Development and Public Finance, ODI Global
- Franco Bruni, President, the Italian Institute for International Political Studies (ISPI)
- Moderator: Rémy A. Weber, Program Manager, GSI



# Redirecting Business Performance

May 6, 15:30 – 16:30 CEST

Many global challenges—such as climate change, inequality, and biodiversity loss—cannot be solved without the involvement of businesses. However, current systems legally and commercially pressure businesses into prioritizing profits over social or environmental concerns. As a result, businesses' goals often conflict with societal well-being and sustainability. Voluntary actions by businesses are insufficient, as these efforts often fail when they threaten profitability. Neither businesses nor policymakers alone can fix this misalignment. A new governance framework is needed—one that allows businesses to remain profitable while supporting environmental sustainability and social equity. This framework must be both conceptually and practically developed to guide policy and create equal opportunities, integrating profit with responsibility to people and the planet. Cocreated by business leaders, policymakers, and civil society, it would include new laws, regulations, incentives, and procurement rules at international, regional, and national levels. These would all be designed to reshape business behavior for a sustainable and inclusive future.

- Claudia Oeking, Head of Public Affairs, Airbus
- Richard Huelsmann, Head of Social and Governance Programs, UN Global Compact Network Germany
- Heerad Sabeti, Co-founder and CEO, the Fourth Sector Group
- Jonathan Rose, President, Jonathan Rose Companies
- Bhushan Sethi, Partner, Strategy&, PwC
- Helena Leurent, Director General, Consumers International
- Moderator: Colin Mayer, Emeritus Professor of Management Studies, Saïd Business School, University of Oxford

# **DIALOGUES**

Tower View (1st Floor) - This track features interactive and in-depth discussions on interdisciplinary topics.

# T20 Session: Innovative Instruments and Options for SDG Financing

May 5, 10:30 - 11:45 CEST

Despite various international initiatives, sustainability agendas such as the SDGs and the green transition remain underfunded. While multilateral funds have increased contributions, they still fall short of financing needs. In this context, the UN is organizing its fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) to address these challenges, which will set the context of this discussion.

Given the urgency, exploring innovative financing sources and uses alongside FfD4 is crucial. These include international levies on aviation and shipping, blue finance for ocean protection, and blended finance for renewable investments in emerging markets and developing countries (EMDCs).

This expert discussion will delve into the different options and their implementation, stressing the concrete next steps required from different stakeholder groups to move the SDG agenda forward.

- Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UN Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA); UN G20 Sous-Sherpa
- Michael Dittrich, Vice Secretary-General, Head of Finance and Administration, Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt
- Torsten Thiele, Founder, Global Ocean Trust
- Michael C. Huang, Senior Research Fellow, Ocean Policy Research Institute (OPRI),
   Sasakawa Peace Foundation
- Shuva Raha, Fellow and Lead on International Cooperation, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
- Katja Hujo, Head of Bonn Office, UN Research Institute for Social Development (UNRISD)
- Moderator: Leonis Petschmann, Managing Partner and Chief Operating Officer (COO), Vindelici Advisors



# Mainstreaming Circular Economy

May 5, 12:00 - 13:00 CEST

The global consumption of material resources has risen exponentially in recent decades, contributing to various planetary crises, such as, climate change, pollution, and biodiversity loss. The pace at which raw material is extracted and the processing for this consumption puts enormous pressure on the resource bases of our economies and has tremendous environmental consequences.

The tenets of eliminating waste, circulating and reusing resources, and regenerating nature enshrined in the circular economy principles offer a solution to this over-consumption, and the conversations about circular economy has entered mainstream conversation; however, global circularity is still in decline, declining from 9.1% in 2018 to 7.2% just five years later in 2023. To ensure circularity practices break through to mainstream policies, government and industry must break free of flawed development patterns that continue to fuel industries and practices known to be socially and environmentally exploitative.

Key global systems, such as food systems, energy, and transportation, put the most pressure on key Earth systems. However, these systems are vital for fulfilling people's needs. Potential solutions involve leveraging key economic and policy incentives, along with harnessing innovations in digitalization and technology in order to embed circular practices in key global systems. This session will discuss the steps that economies and industries need to take to ensure that circularity is in mainstream practices to alleviate this pressure.

- Elena Martínez Martínez, SOS Biotech, Finalist for the YGC Recoupling Award 2025
- Christina Jäger, Co-founder and Managing Director, Yunus Environment Hub
- Izabella Teixeira, member of the International Advisory Board, the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI); Former Minister of the Environment, Brazil
- Shuva Raha, Fellow and Lead in International Cooperation, CEEW
- Moderator: Conny Czymoch



# T20 Session: Global Alliances in a Fragmented World

May 5, 14:00 - 15:15 CEST

As global challenges continue to multiply in scale and complexity, robust international cooperation is more essential than ever. Platforms such as the G20 and BRICS have emerged as critical arenas for shaping global governance, but how effectively do they complement - or compete with each other - in addressing pressing global issues?

This session will explore the evolving relationship between these two major alliances, examining areas of alignment and divergence. As G20 is reaching its first full cycle, the session will reflect on the progress made since the grouping's inception to ensure it remains an effective platform for global governance, particularly in the light of the upcoming US G20 presidency in 2026. Meanwhile, BRICS is expanding its influence and reach, positioning itself as the voice of the "global majority" and raising questions over its role in reshaping the global order. While key areas of collaboration, such as advancing the SDGs, are well-recognized, the session will focus on defining the concrete steps these alliances can take to deliver tangible results.

- Sachin Chaturvedi, Director General, Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS)
- Bambang Brodjonegoro, Dean, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
- Alexander Gabuev, Director, Carnegie Russia Eurasia Center
- Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Executive Director, South African Institute of International Affairs (SAIIA)
- Patrick Costello, Managing Director, Mercury Public Affairs (invited)
- Moderator: Maiara Folly, Executive Director and Co-Founder, Plataforma CIPO



# Health as a Pathway to Prosperity

May 5, 15:30 - 16:30 CEST

This session is curated together with the World Health Summit.

In developed countries, institutions for providing public goods, such as health, are well-established, although this has historically been seen as the responsibility of sovereign states. However, in developing countries and at regional and global levels such systems remain fragmented. A key lesson from the Covid-19 pandemic is viewing health as a common good and an engine of economic development—an idea long advocated by experts and the World Health Organization (WHO).

Despite significant economic growth, global health inequities persist. This is primarily due to wealth disparities and inadequate investment in public goods. Poor health outcomes in developing nations hinder progress towards sustainable prosperity, perpetuating a vicious cycle. Crises underscore the impact of underinvestment in health, exacerbating disparities and straining limited resources, particularly in low-income countries.

With the South African presidency concluding its leadership of the Global South G20 and the US taking over amid its mistrust of multilateralism, what does this mean for global health? This session will explore how evidence-based investments can build resilient health systems and foster global cooperation to advance health as a public good.

- Zubaida Bai, President and CEO, Grameen Foundation
- Christian Franz, Partner and Co-Founder, CPC Analytics
- Roberto Jaquaribe, Brazilian Ambassador to Germany
- Moderator: Ilona Kickbusch, Co-chair, World Health Summit Council



# T20 Session: Access, Resilience, and Prosperity: Africa's Energy Transition

May 5, 16:45 - 18:00 CEST

This session is curated together with Global Citizen.

A renewables-based energy transition promises to deliver vast socio-economic benefits to countries across Africa, improving energy access, creating jobs and boosting energy security. African countries have an opportunity to leapfrog fossil fuel technologies, favoring more sustainable, climate-friendly power strategies, which are aligned with the Paris Agreement and low-carbon growth. Their abundance of critical minerals and potential for renewables can be leveraged to support both economic development and climate action in the region and abroad.

Although Africa has a strong starting point for the transformation of the energy sector, with the unparalleled potential for renewables, it is still investing in energy from fossil fuels. However, the prerequisites for the transformation—stable energy systems, reliable regulatory and financial policy frameworks, ambitious policy goals, and appropriate markets—are increasingly available or can be realized.

The speakers in this session will deliberate on the fields of action and elaborate on the role of the critical themes and how they affect the fields of action.

- Maiara Folly, Executive Director and Co-founder, Plataforma CIPÓ; T20 Task Force
   5 Co-chair
- Heba Aguib, Board Member, BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt
- L. Cresto Aleina, Senior Consultant, Climate Adaptation and Renewables, Global Citizen
- Miriam W. Oiro Omolo, Executive Director, The African Policy Research Institute
- Lauren Hermanus, Co-Founder, Southern Transitions
- Moderator: Grace Mbungu, Senior Fellow and Head of the Climate Change Program, African Policy Research Institute (APRI)



# Reducing Inequalities through Climate, Biodiversity, and SDG Investments

May 6, 11:15 - 12:45 CEST

This session is curated together with the Deutsche Gesellschaft für Internationale Zusammenarbeit GmbH (GIZ).

Deep inequalities persist, with 71% of the global population living in countries where socio-economic disparities have grown. Reflecting on Brazil's G20 Presidency tackling poverty and inequality, South Africa's G20 leadership focuses on increasing investments to address these challenges.

To contribute to this global debate GIZ, in collaboration with the GSI, has launched a Solutions Lab to better align multilateral public finance with inequality reduction. While funds such as the Green Climate Fund aim to support global transformation agendas (Agenda 2030, Paris Climate Agreement, Convention on Biological Diversity), they often operate in silos, sometimes reinforcing inequalities in resource distribution.

The session compiles a collection of perspectives that present a critical outlook on the current compartmentalized investments and pathways for an integrated finance modality.

- Ingrid-Gabriela Hoven, Managing Director, GIZ
- Rawane Yasser, Research Officer, French Development Agency (AFD)
- Daniel Suryadarma, Senior Research Fellow, Asian Development Bank Institute (ADBI)
- João Francisco Araújo Maria, General Coordinator for the Sociobioeconomy of Brazilian Biomes, Secretariat for the Green Economy, Ministry of Development, Industry, Trade and Services, Federal Government of Brazil
- Navid Hanif, Assistant Secretary-General for Economic Development, UNDESA
- Nithi Nesadurai, Director and Regional Coordinator, Climate Action Network Southeast Asia
- Frank Vanaerschot, Director, Counter Balance, Belgium
- Anthony Kamande, Inequality Policy and Research Advisor, Oxfam International
- Mikatekiso Kubayi, Senior Researcher, Institute for Global Dialogue
- Lauren Hermanus, Co-founder, Southern Transitions
- Miriam W. Oiro Omolo, Executive Director, African Policy Research Institute (APRI)
- Towfigul Islam Khan, Senior Researcher Fellow, Center for Policy Dialogue (CPD)
- Arabo Ewinyu, Researcher, Southern Center for Inequality Studies
- Moderator: Tina Meckel, Denkmodell



# Scaling Grassroots Solutions for Sustainable Development

May 6, 14:00 - 15:15 CEST

This session is curated together with the Deutsche Bundesstiftung Umwelt.

Local communities, often bearing the greatest impacts of climate change, are key to developing practical solutions to drive sustainable progress. This interactive session will focus on local initiatives that address the intersection of critical Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). Through an in-depth exploration of grassroots projects, the session will demonstrate how community-driven efforts are providing practical solutions to some of the most pressing environmental and social challenges.

The discussion will center on two key objectives. First, it will analyze how these localized initiatives contribute to the achievement of the SDGs within their immediate contexts, illustrating their role in improving living conditions and enhancing community resilience. Second, it will examine the potential for scaling these efforts to broader levels, identifying strategies to amplify their impact and align them with national and global climate action frameworks.

- Julian Spratte, Director, BioPellets Energy
- Stephen Bright Sakwa, Co-founder, Bees & Trees (YGC)
- Aina Kauluma, Renewable Energy Analyst, Daures Green Hydrogen Village
- Chiara Liquori, Climate Justice Senior Policy Adviser, Oxfam UK
- Kai Niebert, President, Deutscher Naturschutzring; Chairman of the Board of Trustees, German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)
- Melanie Hauenstein, Director, UNDP Germany
- Shuva Raha, Fellow and Lead, International Cooperation, Council on Energy, Environment and Water (CEEW)
- Moderator: Declan Curry, Business Journalist



T20 Session: Disrupted but Still Standing: What is Next for the World Trade System?

May 6, 15:30 - 16:30 CEST

Trade and industrial policy are becoming increasingly securitized, with tariffs, subsidies, export controls, and trade barriers proliferating. Economic blocs engage in trade wars and pursue decoupling, derisking, or "friendshoring" in sensitive sectors, straining the multilateral trading system, with little hope for reforming the WTO and other global governance institutions.

Yet, globalization and economic interdependencies persist. The economic and political costs of decoupling or derisking become clear and prove problematic in the light of budget constraints and the tense economic situation in many countries. Governments and businesses do not wait idly for multilateral solutions: More bilateral and regional free trade agreements have emerged, securing the flow of goods and services but creating an increasingly complicated and fragmented trade landscape. Trade-offs and difficult decisions are on the agenda, posing questions such as which products and services should be traded with whom? Which industries should be supported and with what measures?

- Patrick Costello, Managing Director, Mercury Public Affairs Vera Thorstensen, Professor, Getulio Vargas Foundation; WTO Chair Holder in Brazil
- Axel Berger, Deputy Director, German Institute of Development and Sustainability; Co-chair of the Task Force on Trade, T20 South Africa
- Vera Thorstensen, Head, Center on Global Trade and Investments, FGV; Former Chair, WTO Committee of Rules of Origin
- Moderator: Dharmendra Kanani, Chief Spokesperson and Chief Operating Officer (COO), Friends of Europe

# **CLOSED SESSIONS**

Participation is by invitation only.

### May 5

- How can civil society organizations drive political commitments into action? 10:30 11:45 CEST
  - o Curated together with Think Tank Lab and Oxfam South Africa.
- Council for Global Problem-Solving (CGP), 11:30–12:45 CEST
- Business Policy and Practice to Address Current Challenges, 14:15 15:15 CEST
- Climate Finance and SDGs: Identifying and Overcoming Financing Gaps and Obstacles, 14:15 16:15 CEST
  - Supported by the Mercator Foundation.
- China West Dialogue: Strengthening the G20 in an Era of Turbulence, 16:30 18:00 CEST
- A Global Approach to Global AI Challenges: Draft Declaration by Global Think Tanks on Next Generation AI, 17:00 18:30 CEST
  - o Curated together with CIGI.
- Countering a Fragmenting Global Tech Regulatory Landscape, 18:15 19:15 CEST
  - o Curated together with GIDE.

# May 6

- Understanding US Priorities, 08:00 09:15 CEST
- Driving Change from Within: A Hands-on Workshop for Social and Environmental Change Agents, 11:15- 12:30 CEST
  - o Curated together with PHINEO.
- Mobilizing Private Capital through Foreign-Led Development Models, 12:45 13:45
   CEST
  - o Curated together with Zukunfts-Fabrik.2050.

- T20 Secretariat, 13:30 15:30 CEST
- Powering Europe: Competitive Energy Transition, 14:00 15:00 CEST
  - o Curated together with United Europe.

# **OTHERS**

# Guided Tours through ESMT Berlin Building

- Monday, May 5
  - o 12:45 13:10 CEST
  - o 13:20 13:40 CEST
- Tuesday, May 6
  - o 12:50 13:10 CEST
  - o 13:20 13:40 CEST