

Final Statement

Y20 2025 South Africa - Italian Delegation

We, the Italian Delegation to this year's Youth 20 (Y20) South Africa 2025 "Youth for Global Progress: Uniting for Solidarity, Championing Equality, Driving Sustainability", acknowledging the negotiations held during the Y20 Summit, submit this communique to strengthen Italy's voice within the G20 process.

We meet at a pivotal moment: the world faces converging crises — from accelerating climate change and environmental degradation, to rising geopolitical tensions, widening inequalities, rapid technological transformations, and escalating living costs. These are compounded by humanitarian emergencies marked by food insecurity, mass displacement, gender-based violence, and the growing tragedy of human-caused famine. Together, these overlapping challenges fuel instability and weigh heavily on young people, particularly in the Global South, whose voices remain too often sidelined.

We affirm that youth participation must be meaningful and embedded in policymaking to build resilient, equitable, and sustainable futures. Guided by solidarity, equality, and sustainability, the Italian Delegation presents recommendations across this year's five priority tracks:

1. Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability – Green Horizons
2. Inclusive Economic Growth and Employment – Pathways to Prosperity
3. AI, Digital Innovation, Education, and Future of Work – Innovate to Elevate
4. Meaningful Youth Engagement and Reforming Multilateralism - For a Just Future
5. Inclusive Social Development and Fighting Inequality - Leaving No One Behind

Climate Change and Environmental Sustainability – Green Horizons

We call on G20 Leaders to:

Strengthen legal protections for the environment to enhance resilience and One Health. We encourage the restriction of PFAS and CEC in line with CBDR-RC to stop their harm to human health and the environment and invest in alternatives. Urge clear, enforceable **biodiversity goals aligned with the Kunming-Montreal Global Biodiversity Framework** by developing robust, time-bound NBSAPs integrated into economy-wide policy-making.

Advance the integration of **sustainable, equitable, climate and water-smart food systems into NAPs, incorporating CSA**. Expand access to climate finance, risk management tools, and extension services to protect food producers and consumers. Prioritise **soil and water stewardship** and resilient, locally adapted agricultural inputs. Build inclusive, transparent value chains that reduce loss and waste, enable nutrition-sensitive consumption and procurement, and de-risk participation by youth, women, and underserved producers.

Reach consensus on the G20 **Critical Minerals Framework** under negotiation, drawing on guiding principles¹, to ensure transparency, environmental safeguards, and fair distribution of benefits from resource extraction across the value chain, ensuring circularity, particularly in battery recycling and EV industry.

Underline the importance of ensuring fair distribution of **climate finance** from developed to developing countries under the principles of CBDR, while enhancing accountability for commitments made at COP/CMA, with obligations tracked by indices on effectiveness. Encourage scaling up the use of **innovative financial instruments**² through strengthened public–private collaboration. Encourage **interoperable, science-based green taxonomies** integrating social protection to ensure equity, inclusiveness, and guide capital.

Safeguard our oceans by integrating **fisheries governance in Areas Beyond National Jurisdiction**, enhance enforcement mechanisms within MPAs to protect critical ecosystems and processes, and impose moratoriums on destructive deep-sea practices such as deep-sea mining and bottom trawling until standardised EIA's are undertaken. We urge member states to recommit negotiating a global plastics treaty and reinforce their strategies to **phase down single-use** to promote sustainable alternatives.

Acknowledge the energy trilemma³ as critical to our collective climate action and rapidly growing energy demand driven by new technologies, including AI. Develop G20 **Principles for Energy Security and Transition instruments** covering emergency preparedness, seasonal storage, system flexibility, and the resilience of critical infrastructure, knowledge sharing and capacity building on **innovative energy technologies**, such as underground energy storage, geothermal, offshore wind, nuclear fusion, wave, and tidal power.

Prioritise and finance **targeted climate adaptation strategies** in environmentally vulnerable areas in line with UAE Global Climate Resilience Framework, especially water management and security. Encourage the integration of **Nature-based Solutions (NbS)**⁴ **into national adaptation and resilience plans**. Call for robust investment in Indigenous- and community-led initiatives, as well as in youth leadership. Support the UN 'Early Warnings for All' initiative by providing accessible space-based data and tools to enhance climate resilience and facilitate inclusive capacity building for Early Warning Systems and timely emergency responses.

Acknowledge **space activities** have environmental impacts, treating Earth's orbits as an extension of the planet's environment. Y20 advocates for establishing a UN-led working group to advance research on upper-atmosphere impacts, more sustainable space systems and guide mission rationale, with its outcomes shared with the G20 Space Economy Leaders Meeting, for future integration into IPCC cycles. Ensure equitable representation, capacity-building, and funding for Global-South participation.

¹ UN Secretary-General's Panel on Critical Energy Transition Minerals

² Including blended finance, blue and green bonds, pay debt systems in local currency (SML and CPCR), VCEFs, with the support of MDB and NDB, debt-for-nature in LDCs/SIDs by commercial banks etc.

³ As defined by the World Energy Council

⁴ As adopted in UNEA-5/5

Inclusive Economic Growth and Employment – Pathways to Prosperity

We call on G20 Leaders to:

Invest in education and skills agendas to train underrepresented population segments, with a focus on **sustainable business practices, inclusive entrepreneurship, and relevant skills for the local economies to thrive**. (Sustainable Development Goals 4 and 9- African Union Goal 4).

1. Promote cooperation among **UNESCO, NGOs, and local youth organisations** to identify the most underrepresented social groups using locally designed **illiteracy standards**.
2. **Coordinate** education activities with the support of **UNESCO's Strategies and local education authorities' programs** to adapt the programs to the local cultures and needs.
3. Integrate marginalised individuals in the development of new job opportunities by fostering **inclusive internship and tutoring programs that can accommodate different literacy levels**.⁵
4. Stress on the specific **skill-sets and competencies** that are necessary for marginalised youth **to integrate into the local job markets**.⁶ Mobility programs must be seen as a tool for upskilling.

Support regions vulnerable to climate change by designing **on-site professional training activities and by preparing economic infrastructures to enhance adaptation and sustainable development**. (Sustainable Development Goals 9 and 13).

1. Organise **coordinated investment campaigns** aimed at the **development and maintenance of economic infrastructures** that can **integrate sustainable industries**.
2. The G20 will accelerate climate adaptation by partnering with global institutions, supported by public bodies, Multilateral Development Banks, and private donors, to deliver data and solutions developed with local experts to maintain a **multi-perspective approach**.
3. Train **emerging private and public sector leaders to adapt** their regions to future climate conditions.

Establishing a **multilateral advisory and regulatory framework** formed by economic experts **from both the Global North and South**, with the goal of developing equality-based entrepreneurship policies (Sustainable Development goals 5 and 8- African Union Goal 17 and 3).

1. Tackle barriers to regional and transnational entrepreneurship, such as **lack of funding, lack of legal frameworks and restrictive rules**.
2. Ensure the projects sponsored by this framework act with **equitable development and inclusive business practices**.⁷

Promote world trade reforms to **benefit the key sectors** -such as agriculture, renewable energy, and manufacturing- **of developing countries** to ensure a globally balanced economic growth. (Sustainable Development Goal 8 and 7- African Union Goals 7 and 1).

1. Prioritising multilateral agreements -particularly in the WTO- **to strategically reduce tariffs** that penalise the development of the key sectors in the Global South.
2. Promoting cooperation opportunities⁸ to form **strategic partnerships** with developing countries.
3. Initiating a dialogue between business and political leaders from the **Global South and North** to promote partnerships to develop key sectors and promote **sustainable industrial practices**.

⁵ Programs linked to international institutions such as the UNADAP or regional internship programs such as the African Disability Forum.

⁶ Skills-matching programs such as the UN Global Initiative on Decent Jobs for Youth (DJY) represent adequate models.

⁷ The G20 Inclusive Business Framework represents a tool to raise awareness on the benefits of inclusive business models.

⁸ As Italy's Mattei Plan and the EU-Africa Green Energy Initiative

AI, Digital Innovation, Education, and Future of Work – Innovate to Elevate

We call on G20 Leaders to:

1. Educate and Up/Re-skill Youth in Digital Technologies by:

- Adapting **education systems at all levels and vocational training** to include age-appropriate teachings on **digital literacy and digital skills** to ensure young people are fully equipped with the adequate knowledge and skills required by the job market; also **funding actionable research on neurological/psychological impacts of AI** on youth in educational/professional environments;
- Investing in **scalable, affordable, high-quality, and recognised micro credentials** for regular up/re-skilling to ensure young people can quickly acquire job-ready skills;
- Adopting a “**G20 Youth Digital Skills Compass**” to define basic digital skills required by youth and track global progress on their adoption, as defined by SDG 4 (4.4 and 4.6) by 2030; also highlighting the jobs most at risk to be replaced by AI via a **global “Youth Work Risk Index”**;
- Expanding **international youth exchanges, internships, and mentorships** with increased grants coordinated by the relevant Agency/Ministry of each G20 country as a means to foster North-South collaboration, cross-national research, innovation, entrepreneurship and social capital exchange; facilitating the **mutual recognition of the skills/qualifications obtained abroad** for an easier access to the job market; and easing mobility via **simplified student visas**;
- Promoting **STEM participation among girls and young women**;
- Investing in **educators’ training to increase the supply of qualified teachers**, by equipping them with future-ready digital skills and adapted teaching methods.

2. Bridge the Digital Divide through Digital Infrastructure by:

- Investing in **inclusive, accessible, and affordable digital infrastructure** (*including, but not limited to, high-speed internet, interoperable technology, robust cloud services, and TISCs*) **across all G20 States’ national territory to close the digital divide**, ensuring all youth, regardless of geography and background, can access and participate meaningfully in the digital age;
- Fostering **local Innovation and AI Hubs as dynamic multi-stakeholder infrastructure ecosystems** that stimulate creativity, collaboration, and sustainable development in the fields of digital technology and AI, enabling youth to build local solutions for global challenges;
- Promoting **equity in government technology** by ensuring all youth, including from socio-economically disadvantaged, Indigenous, or rural communities, benefit from AI-powered public services through **inclusive, transparent, ethical design and participatory policymaking**.

3. Regulate AI Technologies by:

- Developing a **comprehensive global Framework for Ethical AI/Data Governance** (with meaningful youth participation in the drafting, implementation and monitoring) to ensure fair, transparent, proportionate, and inclusive access to data, with robust data privacy safeguards against misuse (*e.g., defamatory deep fakes, misinformation, unauthorised access, mass surveillance, systemic harm - particularly in high risk sectors*), by incorporating data minimisation, encryption, and strict consent requirements tailored to the needs of young people;
- **Training AI models on underrepresented languages and shared data sets** to support digital representativeness, inclusion, fairness, and cultural preservation;
- Adopting **AI models with a human-centric design** (including principles of transparency, human oversight, accountability, age-appropriate safeguards), and checked against **algorithmic bias, discrimination, and error** to avoid unfair and unequal treatment, especially targeting youth;
- Ensuring **fair working conditions and accessible legal structures across the entire AI-related supply chain**, especially for socio-economically disadvantaged communities.

Meaningful Youth Engagement and Reforming Multilateralism - For a Just Future

We call on G20 Leaders to:

Comply with international law and uphold their **UN Charter obligations** by adhering to the legal frameworks of **international humanitarian and human rights law**, as outlined in the Geneva Conventions of 1949 and their Additional Protocols of 1977. We urge preventing **States and corporations** from **profiting from war, occupation, or mass atrocities**, subjecting arms exports, and international agreements to rigorous due diligence, with **sanctions** imposed through the multilateral system on aggressors and profiteers. We reiterate the **UNSC resolution 2250 (2015)** on Youth, Peace & Security, highlighting the importance of implementing **meaningful youth participation** in **dispute-resolution** and **peacebuilding**. Additionally, we recommend upholding core participation standards such as **freedom of expression, press, assembly, and civic activism**. This includes protecting **human rights** and **climate activists and defenders** from harm and unjust legal actions.

Recognise the need for an **immediate and permanent ceasefire in Gaza**, the release of all hostages, and full humanitarian access, in line with the obligations under the Fourth Geneva Convention (1949). Looking beyond the cessation of hostilities, we call for a robust, **rights-based post-conflict framework** that ensures **accountability** for violations, facilitates **reconstruction** and **reconciliation**, and upholds the **right of Palestinians** to self-determination, as affirmed by UNGA Resolution 3236. A credible pathway to a **just and lasting peace** must be anchored in the recognition of the State of Palestine and a negotiated **two-state solution based on the pre-1967 borders**, in accordance with UNSC Resolutions 242 and 338.

Urge reform of the UNSC to prevent the veto from obstructing action in response to mass atrocities. Specifically, we support **voluntary veto restraint** in contexts involving mass atrocities and **grave threats to human security**, including systematic violence against civilian populations. We recommend introducing a political commitment that at least **two Permanent Members concur** in exercising a veto on issues involving mass atrocities. We call on G20 leaders to strongly consider **expanding UNSC non-permanent members**, ensuring fairer geographic balance, greater accountability, and more inclusive representation.

Integrate youth into the full policy cycle and invest in their **capacity building** through training, education, mentorship, leadership development, with particular attention to **marginalised, vulnerable and underrepresented groups**. We also urge multilateral institutions to recognise **Indigenous people** as international actors with dedicated seats and decision-making roles. Youth roles should be **adequately compensated and credited**, avoiding voluntary or tokenistic participation, and **paid internships** at national level and in international organisations should be standard practice to ensure equitable access and meaningful engagement.

Establish transparent and binding accountability mechanisms to ensure youth participation leads to tangible outcomes. This should include **public tools** such as “You Said, We Did” trackers, consultation calendars, and annual reporting that provide **timely feedback** and **justification** of decisions. We recommend the implementation of **independent audits**, civil society and youth-led review panels, and the use of tools such as the [Global Youth Participation Index](#) to assess **youth representation** in decision-making, the **quality of engagement**, and the **resources allocated**. Findings must inform annual **national and international progress reports** and be used to identify and implement **concrete actions** to improve the rights, well-being, and opportunities of young people, in line with key global frameworks, including the Pact for the Future.

Inclusively reform global economic governance to ensure fairer trade and financing. **WTO reform** should restore its dispute settlement system, enhance transparency, uphold social and environmental standards in trade rules, while ensuring benefits reach local economies, SMEs, and the Global South. **IMF and World Bank reforms** should align with the SDGs, rebalance voting power, support debt relief, and promote paid youth participation.

Inclusive Social Development and Fighting Inequality – Leaving No One Behind

We call on G20 Leaders to:

Reaffirm their commitment to **eradicating gender-based violence and femicide**, as defined by SDG Target 5.2, **through comprehensive prevention, response, and accountability frameworks**, by: (1) introducing comprehensive sexuality and consent education; (2) pushing for economic measures empowering individuals suffering from violence; (3) enforcing national legal frameworks to guarantee liability; (4) establishing a national safe call line on domestic violence; (5) adopting standardised indicators and robust data collection systems to track incidents, and (6) ensuring evidence-based policymaking.

Support **gender mainstreaming** as defined by ECOSOC (1997) **through private and public initiatives to empower women and girls from fragile communities** by: (1) ensuring equitable access to quality education; (2) supporting women-run SMEs through targeted inclusive financing; (3) ensuring an enabling regulatory and social environment that safeguards women's equitable personal and economic rights, and (4) co-creating national action plans on inclusive workplace policies, such as protected maternity benefits, public childcare, paid paternity leave, non-discrimination hiring audits, and the integration of gender indicators in public procurement.

Achieve SDG Targets 3.7 and 5.6 by **ensuring universal safe access to sexual and reproductive health-care services**, including for family planning, information, and education - particularly in rural communities - the integration of reproductive health into national strategies, and subsidised access to menstrual health products and education.

Meet SDG 4 by **ensuring equal access to quality education to youth in rural areas, fragile communities** (e.g., youth in refugee camps, conflict, or crisis zones), **and those with disabilities** by optimising investments and sustainable public funding for: (1) comprehensive work-oriented education systems sensitive to students' mental health; (2) modernising curricula for increased local youth engagement in policymaking and enhanced digital literacy by training youth as digital ambassadors; (3) safe and digitally-connected infrastructure; (4) nutritional programs, sanitation; (5) accessible transportation, and (6) universal access to assistive technologies for persons with disabilities through international IP-sharing mechanism and local production (e.g., braille book adaptations), training (e.g., sign language).

Ensure that **migrants, refugees, asylum seekers, and stateless people** have **equitable access to education and employment** opportunities, in accordance with national laws, and smoother social inclusion with UNHCR support. This could be done through (1) expediting bureaucratic, financial, and legal processes (2) recognising foreign academic, vocational, and professional qualifications (3) facilitating access to healthcare and a social safety net, and (4) supporting the implementation of community-based programs to promote social cohesion, combat discrimination, foster intercultural connections, and break down negative stigma towards migrant communities.

Strengthen their support for public healthcare by: (1) establishing a charter for the **mutual recognition of youth mental health disorders**, including age-appropriate standards for diagnosis, accessible and appropriate prescription of medication, and acknowledgement of the equal socioeconomic rights for youth with mental health disorders; (2) **strengthening training, safety, and fair remuneration for health workers** and train mental health professionals in adolescent development, and (3) **financing the infrastructure** of resilient public-health systems and support equitable distribution of healthcare services, by replicating and building the virtual hospital model to extend telehealth, mobile clinics, and youth-friendly mental-health services in schools and local centres, especially in rural areas and fragile communities (e.g. refugee camps, conflict and crisis zones).

Glossary of Acronyms

AI – Artificial Intelligence

CBDR-RC – Common But Differentiated Responsibilities and Respective Capabilities

CPCR - Reciprocal Payments and Credits Agreement

CEC – Contaminants of Emerging Concern

CMA – Conference of the Parties serving as the meeting of the Parties to the Paris Agreement

COP – Conference of the Parties

CSA – Climate-Smart Agriculture

ECOSOC – United Nations Economic and Social Council

EIAs – Environmental Impact Assessments

EV – Electric Vehicle

G20 - Group of the twenty

IMF - International Monetary Fund

IPCC – Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change

LDCs – Least Developed Countries

MDB – Multilateral Development Bank

MPAs – Marine Protected Areas

NAPs – National Adaptation Plans

NBSAPs – National Biodiversity Strategies and Action Plans

NDB – National Development Bank

PFAS – Per- and PolyFluoroAlkyl Substances

SDGs - Sustainable Development Goals

SIDs – Small Island Developing States

SML – Local Currency Payment System

SMEs - Small and Medium-sized Enterprises

STEM - Science, Technology, Engineering, Mathematics

TISCs - Technology and Innovation Support Centres

UAE – United Arab Emirates

UN – United Nations

UNHCR – United Nations High Commissioner for Refugees

UNSC - United Nations Security Council

UNGA - United Nations General Assembly

WTO - World Trade Organisation