

# G200

YOUTH FORUM

# Final Results

## G200 Youth Forum 2017

6 – 10 December 2017  
Dubai, The United Arab Emirates

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## **2. ABOUT THE G200 YOUTH FORUM 2017**

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The G200 Youth Forum 2017 (6 December — 10 December 2017, Dubai, the United Arab Emirates) was organized by the Swiss-based G200 Association. Each year the G200 Youth Forum gathers together young leaders from nearly 200 countries, members of parliaments and young parliamentarians, students, academics, and representatives of the business world, governments, and international organizations.

This year's Forum was an exclusive edition to the previous Forums and focused more on cross platform and cross sectorial interaction. The delegates worked in five main Forum Platforms:

- G200 Youth Summit – resulting in the Final Perspectives;
- Conference – with publication of academic articles in the Conference Proceedings;
- International Young Parliamentarians' Debate— with Joint Statement;
- The new established G200 Young Professionals Platform and The G200 Entrepreneurs Platform 2017;
- Joint Sessions of the G200 Youth Summit, Conference, International Young Parliamentarians' Debate and The new established G200 Young Professionals Platform and The G200 Entrepreneurs Platform 2017 participants – with Joint Sessions reports.

This is the 12<sup>th</sup> year of the Forum. Previous events had been held in:

- 2006 – G8 Youth Summit – Russia (Saint-Petersburg);
- 2007 – G8 Youth Summit – Germany (Berlin);
- 2008 – G8 Youth Summit – Japan (Tokyo);
- 2009 – G8 Youth Summit – Italy (Milano);
- 2010 – G20 Youth Summit – Canada (Vancouver);
- 2011 – G20 Youth Summit – France (Paris);
- 2012 – G20 Youth Summit – USA (Washington D.C.);
- 2013 – G20 Youth Forum – Russia (Saint-Petersburg);
- 2014 – G20 Youth Forum – Germany (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria);
- 2015 – G200 Youth Forum – Germany (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria); and
- 2016 – G200 Youth Forum – Germany (Garmisch-Partenkirchen, Bavaria);
- 2017 – G200 Youth Forum – The United Arab Emirates (Dubai).

In total, these events have gathered about 4900 attendants from around 200 countries. The young leaders, academics, parliamentarians, and alumni of all events are members of the G200 Association. The Association is an international non-governmental and nonprofit organisation. It is an inspiring, independent and innovative platform for a new generation of global change makers addressing the biggest challenges of our times to shape a better future and it unites those who will make key decisions on a worldwide scale in the future.

### **3. JOINT SESSIONS' OUTCOMES**

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#### **3.1. JOINT SESSION I: CONSTRUCTING HAPPINESS?**

##### **DESCRIPTION**

Chair: Bridget Grenville-Cleave, MAPP, Workmad Ltd, London, UK

In this Joint Session, participants focused on exploring three key themes which contribute to constructing greater global happiness and well-being:

- 1) Constructing Happiness: Wants vs Needs
- 2) Constructing Happiness through Education
- 3) Constructing Happiness beyond the Individual

##### **Recommendations**

###### **Theme 1: Constructing Happiness: Our Needs and Our Wants**

- A general population inquiry (survey) based on the seven clusters of happiness (health, social, family, intellectual, spiritual, financial, career), in order to identify these indicators. The survey should be continuous and comprehensive; and countries should update their methodology when they deem fit. Conduct rigorous research to identify the needs of the people – including needs that are not often verbalized or that people are conscious about (e.g. health, nutrition).
- Governments should provide basic needs (food, water, housing, health) and security of their citizens and be a facilitator to achieve the next 3 levels of happiness. (love/belonging, self-esteem and self-transcendence). Governments should not have a mandate to act in an intrusive manner to define personal happiness. They should provide freedom of choice.
- Governments should create an environment in which citizens can self-reflect and realize their needs to become happy, and provide the opportunities to fulfill them.
- Conduct a thorough process of listening to the people to ensure they communicate their needs and wants (including minority groups and marginalized communities).

###### **Theme 2: Constructing Happiness through Education**

- The group is not sure that education's final goal is to construct happiness but rather to construct a better society.
- Give schools more space to figure out how the school can contribute to society (central government has to provide guidelines, but also provide a space for the local community to build the education system that can contribute to creating a better society at local level).
- The educational system has to create and give room for critical thinking (e.g. counteracting Fake News in politics/social media).
- Teachers must support those who are not performing well, and not bring them down when they get low grades.
- Introduce a continuous system of evaluation.
- Start cultivating a sense of happiness amongst students through happiness education.
- Online education should be backed by mentorship.
- Access for students in the earlier stages of education to various academic and non-academic opportunities available in later life.

###### **Theme 3: Constructing Happiness Beyond the Individual**

- Greater flexibility in working hours where possible, to accommodate the different needs of employees.

- Create a communication channel from the bottom of the organization to the top, so that there is mutual understanding between employers and employees.
- Responsibility of the government to provide legislation to protect employees' benefits. Equal training and education rights, sponsored by employers or government.
- Inclusivity: facilitating the inclusion and full acceptance of minorities in the workplace.
- Mental health support through mentoring and partnerships in organizations

### **3.2. JOINT SESSION II: ENVIRONMENTAL SUSTAINABILITY: RESPONSIBLE AND SUSTAINABLE LIFESTYLES**

#### **DESCRIPTION**

Chair: Habiba Al Marashi, Co-founder and Chairperson, Emirates Environmental Group (EEG), The United Arab Emirates

Lifestyle is the way a person lives. It is guided by what an individual chooses to do, get involved in and decides on based on issues or activities that bother on his or her life and health. The lifestyles we end up living have a profound impact on our planet, affecting everything from how our economies grow to the health of our environment. The COP21 Paris Agreement made it clear that sustainable lifestyles and sustainable patterns of consumption and production (SCP) will be key in the fight against climate change. Sustainable lifestyles imply more than material consumption alone. Beyond just environmental impacts, the social impacts of lifestyles and consumption can be equally or even more problematic. The goals set out in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and intergovernmental processes like the 10 Year Framework of Programmes on SCP give further support to champions of sustainable lifestyles by acknowledging the powerful role they can play in lifting people out of poverty, ending hunger, and reducing inequality while protecting the environment. The world's youth will have a significant role to play if we are to bring about the widespread behavioural change needed to shift towards more sustainable lifestyles and consumption habits. It is important for young people to understand that behind over-consumption lies increased exploitation of resources, rising poverty, widening inequalities and persistent conflicts, all of which will worsen with climate change and eventually will minimize their opportunities for a better and sustainable future.

#### **Sub-Topics:**

- Recycling, Upcycling and zero waste lifestyle
- Ethical shopping to avoid the Scourge of Store Discounts – Buy one get one free
- Locally produced food and eco-friendly clothing
- Consumers' rising interest in provenance and local sourcing
- Sustainable Consumption is part of a sustainable lifestyle
- Eating ourselves out of house and home
- Income, price, social norms and peer pressure – key drivers of consumer preference.

#### **Recommendations**

We, the participants of the G200 Association, coming from more than 30 countries, 5 continents have widely discussed and elaborated recommendations that could and should be implemented in terms of environment sustainability.

In today's world, highly influenced by globalization, actions should be taken in several directions, to complement each other and bring real changes. What we suggest could lead to the rising of responsibility and sustainability all around the globe which is highly necessary.

**1. Improve the education and raise the awareness.**

- a) Sustainable lifestyle principles should be taught since childhood, and it should be a part of the educational system. Environmental lessons are no less important than math. The young generation should be educated about waste management, recycling culture and all the negative influence on the environment caused by humanity.
- b) Research and science development is one of the key important issues, that could bring us to new solutions and new environmentally-friendly types of energy, efficient recycling and ways of producing goods.

**2. Governmental Support**

The point is that all the governmental structures should use their resources to raise awareness and support among the society in general and for every individual in particular. Efficient and wise legislation to back the environmental protection policy is a fundamental thing. But executive and judicial branches of power should also implement certain measures, again, united by one strategy. For example,

- a) By globally unifying tax policy and environmental legislation we could make business corporations and factories really take care about the amount of their pollution and waste produced. So that we could be sure that the manufactures will not be moved to another country with lower standards of environment care;
- b) By providing subsidies to local foods and clothes producers we shorten amount of resources and energy used for production, develop the local communities and keep the values.
- c) By changing to the digital economy we reduce tons of paper waste;
- d) By creating and supporting different initiatives and programs not just financially but through active engagement, thereby helping to distribute the message of awareness and also achieve synergies and efficiencies.

Keeping in mind that changing the policy and raising a new generation of those who are aware of our planet and future of human beings takes quite a long time we draw your attention that we should start acting now. Among the short-term policies we suggest:

- a) To change the proposition of “Buy one get one free” to “Buy x for \$x” to stimulate more rational thought within the consumer for their need for the additional product.
- b) Encourage supermarkets to continue selling products that have passed their “Best before” date but are still deemed safe to eat at a significantly reduced cost to encourage the reduction of unnecessary wastage.
- c) Create schemes encouraging bottle deposit, or plastic return for a monetary value. This encourages consumers to not throw away the bottle in return for a small financial reward.
- d) Explore the use of plastic as a sustainable material in the fashion industry to create clothing. This could be done with particular reference to the high volume of plastics that are found in the ocean.
- e) Label those products that generate less waste

We believe that together we contribute to the better development of our world.

## **4. G200 YOUTH SUMMIT FINAL PERSPECTIVES**

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### **4.1. COMMITTEE I: GLOBAL HEALTH, SHAPING THE LABOUR MARKET, & FROM CONSUMER SOCIETY TOWARDS VALUE-BASED SOCIETY**

Chair: Hilma David, MBA, Entrepreneur, Namibia

Secretary General: Tertia Vergeer, LL.M., University of Leiden, The Netherlands

#### **4.1.1. GLOBAL HEALTH**

**Executive summary:** Our position on Global Health is that solutions to health problems lie in multiple facets of the health care sector and by extension all sectors. We believe that social disparities play a significant role in the prevalence of diseases. We think that an emphasis on alternative methods of health may be a solution to the over dependency on pharmaceutical drugs. Furthermore, we believe in health education for all people to strengthen the global healthcare systems.

- Irregularities with drug quality control: According to the World Health Organization, 40% of defunct drugs are sent to Africa. We believe that the standard of quality control needs improvement. We suggest that a centralized system/organization for making international law that will set regulations to promote quality, legitimate medicine, is established. International law is currently unorganized and inconsistent. The lack of quality control standards opens up room for contradiction and ambiguity, leading to an inefficient allocation of resources.
- The high dependency on manufactured drugs: Pharmaceutical companies thrive on being the only sources of healthcare treatment, which gives them more power to control prices. We believe that the government must provide more funding to preventative medical research. Furthermore, we suggest that more research is done on indigenous medicines to recognize and identify safe and viable alternatives to manufactured products. We think that if we encourage greater collaboration between the physical and biological sciences to increase our understanding of major diseases, there will be less dependency on pharmaceutical drugs.
- Healthcare policies should emphasize long term reform: We believe that long term reform over short term relief, particularly in developing countries is imperative for sustainable healthcare. Health professionals must aim to address fundamental causes of diseases, not just the overlying symptoms.
- Lack of global cohesion: The lack of global cohesion to address health issues is a contributing factor to persisting diseases. We believe that better communication between health experts and foreign ministers to ensure national interests are effectively advocated on a global level. Hence, improved multi-level cooperation at the international level will benefit many countries. We must however remain cognizant of the fact that strategies that are successful in one country may not yield the same effectiveness in others due to differences in causation, context and culture.
- Outdated healthcare systems: We believe that the government should develop a comprehensive and consistent policy review process. For instance, policies, guidelines and recommendations must be regularly amended to avoid becoming obsolete. A procedural review process will ensure that our policy strengths are bolstered while weaknesses are swiftly addressed.
- Mental health stigma, misdiagnoses and lack of education: We believe that early exposure to mental health professionals to reduce the stigma around mental health is important and to increase familiarity with these health professional. E.g. during primary school and high school. We suggest

that programs that promote positive mental health, support groups and awareness events/groups are introduced and integrated into society, to remove any stigmas associated with mental illness.

- According to the human rights each woman has the right of family life, therefore we highly recommend the following:
  - The first recommendation is to emphasize the possibility for women to freeze their eggs without extra costs in their own country and IVF should be available for all women without extra costs as part of the health care system of their country.
  - In order to start a family it is highly recommended that employers should provide a reasonable paternity/maternity leave for women who choose to start a family if they wish.
  - We emphasize a parenting plan should be arranged in case of divorce. A parenting plan will be made when the parents decide to get a divorce. Child support should be proportional.
  - Women should be ensured to get the privacy needed, as described by human rights to start a family and to get all help from their government and by doctors to start a family. Women who feel the wish to become a mother, so that the mother feels connected with her child, should get all help from the government and from doctors.

#### **4.1.2. FROM CONSUMER SOCIETY TOWARDS VALUE-BASED SOCIETY**

**Executive summary:** In contemporary societies, trends of individualization and therefore egoism are to be found. We argue that these sentiments lead to a lack of care about the well-being of our natural environment, a dis-interest in other individuals that look or are different to ourselves and therefore the socio-economic exclusion of many communities. To the end of moving away from this egoism towards altruism, or in the broader sense, to move away from the mass-consumption society to a society that is more intrinsically value-based, we have established the following recommendations:

##### **Education System Reform**

There are still very few educational systems throughout the globe that do consider sustainable development as a whole and take these concepts into consideration while meeting the other more traditional targets that education needs to provide to every student, such as regular school subjects. And while these are never to be disregarded, there should be an evolution on what concerns a XXI century school, especially because we, as a society, should try to raise our future generations shaped for new fundamental values that need to be taken into account facing the planet's challenges nowadays.

- **Ensure equal opportunities:** Schools need to be the very first place where there shall not be manifestations of discrimination of any kind, either it be economical, ethnical, sexual orientation, or whatever other reasons there might be. And this means at all moments of academic processes and actions, there should be as much transparency as possible and an open environment that receives every person as a human being with just as much probabilities to succeed than any other colleague. For instance, we believe equity is an important concept to reach an equal learning place – where every child must be assessed as to her personal education needs and virtues – and design a better “school”, as institution.
- **Holistic development:** Academic curriculum in most educational systems tend to reflect particular limitations and ignore a relevant set of “soft-skills”, competences and plenty of other citizenship related issues for which there is not enough representation within the process of learning, growing and shaping children towards inside institutional environment, like schools and universities, and outside of these formal scenarios, like associations, community events and other situations. Points to consider are:

- Inter-disciplinary curriculum, challenging the traditional view on subjects and a teacher to each subject, creating barriers between them, and promoting cooperation between different types of knowledge to integrate critical thinking and readily available autonomous group work and self-promoted interest in distinct topics;
  - Humanizing children, through creating a new posture of the educational system to the children it teaches – so, there is a priority with raising children in and out of the institutions, promoting cooperative work with the outside community and formal stakeholders, to aspire reaching a welcoming mental health environment throughout their lives' different levels. School should be part of this process.
  - Citizenship education, as to teaching students the roles that they play in society and what is expected of them. This implies that every other aspect concerning sustainable development goals should be a priority to be taught in schools and universities, in order to face the challenges of the UN's 2030 Agenda. Students of the XXI century shall be empowered with the knowledge and informal levels of experience with real world challenges in order to gain self-awareness but also a greater sense of their being in a society, and their impact in a community.
- **Teacher Formation:** Education professionals also have the need to see their own knowledge updated frequently. And so, what it's needed to actually sustain a reform as important as this is reforming the skills of our teachers so that they are able to effectively educate students for a value-based society. Teachers play a vital role in students' lives, and are an immediate and permanent role model as long as they exist in the academic process of learning. Conducting an adaptation to how they should perceive education from a more contemporary view of the societal needs is a key aspect to operationalize and lead to results.
- **Reaching via social media:** Social media should be a mean used more often for the education and reach of the young people, by the governmental institutions and organs, about environmental issues and citizenship levels of individuals' life and existence. Young people spend most of their time on social media nowadays, so effective targeted marketing of the aforementioned goals would be most efficient through these channels.

### **Changing in the Role of Government Bodies**

- **Taxation reform:** Governmental bodies and supranational institutions should implement more extensive taxation reforms. Green, renewable and sustainable initiatives and commodities should be made more attractive to the people and progressive initiatives should be aided in the form of tax reduction on these very commodities and services that help safe our planet for the future generations. Furthermore, more extensive negative incentives ought to be placed on commodities and services that are known to be detrimental to our environment (both natural and social).
- **Fair representation:** This kind of representation of citizens should be implemented throughout all (supra-/inter-) national governmental bodies and decision-making-organs. This strategy should be implemented in terms of equal sex representation, as well as by promoting more people of color to be part of the leading organs, as well as LGBTQ+ communities that are still to be emancipated within structures of power. We believe that it is only when we start including, rather than excluding, people that look different to the white heterosexual male into our national and international narratives that we can truly reach new solutions and a more communal and meaningful sense of living, which will definitely influence the way in which we treat our natural environments.

### 4.1.3. SHAPING THE LABOUR MARKET

**Executive summary:** Changing global economic dynamics influenced by various contributors have shaped global labour markets. The 2008 Global Economic Crisis as well as the Euro Sovereign Debt Crisis has crafted an increasingly hostile and turbulent global economic environment making it particularly difficult for recent graduates to find employment. Furthermore, the increasing cost of living, inflation and the commodification and corporatization of education have made it increasingly difficult for new graduates enter higher education and eventually graduate with exorbitant student debt. In light of integrated global markets greater effort should be made to better protect employees from exploitation there is a need to improve labour market regulations.

- **New graduates struggle to find employment**

The 2008 global economic crisis coupled with changing global economic dynamics have had a detrimental effect on the global economy, particularly affecting rates of labour participating in the market. Although many people that were already employed lost their jobs, the market became particularly hostile for new graduates trying to penetrate the labour market. This has resulted in increasing rates of graduate unemployment and underemployment in some instances. In light of this, the following recommendations are made in an effort to address the issue:

- o Career guidance and training should be incorporated in high school and university curricula respectively.
- o It should be mandatory for universities to set up departments that facilitate communication among professionals, employers, mentors and fresh graduates.
- o A promotion of transparency in the process of recruitment.
- o A greater role played by governments in regulating universities while remaining cognizant of academic freedom and institutional autonomy.

- **High amounts of student debt**

It is evident that students graduating from institutions of higher learning, in their various forms, are faced with high amounts of student debt upon the completion of their studies because of exorbitant costs associated with perusing their respective qualifications. The ever-rising cost of tertiary education and the continued corporatization of education stands as a barrier to access. Considering this, the following recommendations are proposed:

- o Fairer pricing on cost of education.
- o Greater role of private sector (e.g. partnerships) in funding education.
- o Better representation of student interests through encouraged participation by different stakeholders in society.
- o Increased transparency on internal university operations.

- **Improved labour market regulation**

With the advent and globalization and the integration of markets, greater effort should be made to better protect employees from exploitation. Although, many countries around the world have implemented a minimum wage in an attempt to protect the works of their respective nations, the underpayment of workers persists. Having taken note of this, the following recommendation is proposed:

- o Minimum wage standards that are continually reviewed and amended to ensure a good quality of living.

## 4.2. COMMITTEE II: NEW STRATEGIES FOR FINANCIAL SECTORS AND WORLD ECONOMY

Chair: Steven Blessing Ackah, Founder & Head of Government Relations, The UAE-Africa Mentoring Development Consortium (UAMDC), Ghana

Secretary General: Thijs Kuijper, Student, Erasmus University, The Netherlands

**Executive summary:** Strengthening the financial sector by achieving better diversification (including the development of non-banking institutions, Private Equity, Venture Capital investors) integration in to the global financial markets is the key to the current barriers to entry in to the global economy and income inequality and therefore, there should be both strategies for the financial sector and the world economy at large. This will then results in recommendations, and allows government and the citizenry to fully follow its principle for growth and sustainability in our financial ecosystem.

We the members of this committee at the G200 Youth Summit present the following strategies:

### **New Strategies for the Financial Sector and World Economy**

Policy makers have several options to prepare for the risks associated with the coming tightening cycle. Foremost among them are the adoption of policies that reduce vulnerabilities and the proactive pursuit of structural reform agendas that improve growth prospects.

- International policy coordination: A new global regulatory body should find ways to upgrade countrys' fundamentals in order to continue attracting capital flows and investment.
- Find the optimal mix between fiscal and monetary policy.
- Tax and subsidy reforms can help to create more fiscal space.
- While reform needs are necessarily country-specific, they typically fall into a few categories. These include easing infrastructure bottlenecks, especially in energy and transportation; improving education; reforming labour markets and increasing female participation; enhancing competition and easing administrative burdens; improving access to private and multilateral financing; reducing barriers to trade and facilitating regional integration; reforming energy subsidies. In addition to raising long-term growth, some reforms can support cyclically weak demand.

### **Barriers to Entry into the Global Economy**

Governments and institutions face competitive sectorial challenges that limit and bound investors and business to fully operate at its norms and regulations between countries and businesses. Some of these key sectors that do face barriers to entry in this phenomenon include Energy, Agriculture, Minerals, Oil and Gas, Trade and industry which includes manufacturing, transportation services and information technology as cyber norm become a challenge as well.

For example, experience shows that converting cost-effective energy savings potential, particularly the demand-side improvement opportunities across sectors, into investments face many barriers and unforeseen transaction costs. Lack of promoting and cooperation in the connectivity of energy, power, oil and gas, trade and infrastructure work reduces the security and flexible barriers within these sectors.

The following are the key current situations and recommendations revolving around by various countries as to whether developed or developing.

### **Recommendations:**

- Nations should aim to dismantle the regulatory barriers to foreign direct investments, which exists in the form of sectorial equity caps. These impediments exist mainly in the manufacturing sector, and in the short-run, removal of anti-competitive regulatory barriers would increase competitiveness.
- Establish new free trade agreements around the globe. Trading should be made easier between countries, supporting worldwide trade. Trading barriers (tariffs, restrictions etc.) should be taken away as it is better for the open market.

- On international trade there still is a lot of documentation which slows down the process of trade, there should be more space for digitalization of (documents in) the international trade sector and less regulation. To the extent, feasible without violating, WTO obligations should unify all customs duties at a fixed slab. Improvement in custom clearance procedure is the need of the hour. A single window for custom clearance (SWIFT) needs to be extended to all trading partner agencies with provision to upload licenses/permits for imports and exports clearances.
- Countries are depending on the WTO's inefficiency by supporting the dumping of their products, and reaping the benefits of increased exports. We recommend that the WTO efficiency is enhanced to be able to resolve all complaints and lawsuits in due time.

### **Income Inequality**

Currently the world is hit by deep and persistent inequalities, the world development report in 2006 clearly state several examples of such instances and one of these concerns is when we look at the previous Millennium Development Goals. Under the MDG and even the current SDGs indication, a good example is a baby born in Gabon in 2017 has an approximately 13 percent chance of dying before reaching the age of one, because of malnutrition in developing countries. And therefore, there is the need to developed sound financial sector through government participation of monetary policies, improvement of business standards, restructuring and consolidation, and increased competition pave way for balance of payment and fair distribution of national income. Fostering deeper and broader financial intermediation in countries through innovative financial products to reach under-served market segments and strengthen competition and market effectiveness in the financial sector are what government and industries should consider.

There is the need to take a deep look at the income differences in countries and between countries, as that gives a clear understanding on the downward trend in labor income shares and income distribution. The following are the key recommendations.

### **Recommendations:**

#### **Collaborative Economy:**

- Collaborative Economy: There should be a less debt driven world economy, stricter financial regulations for all countries so that it is impossible for certain countries to keep their debt at a lower risk rate as this results in unfair competition.

Developing countries should consider collaborative economy that links customers directly with providers typically through online and mobile platforms as there are huge world economic participation and employment generation, breaking barriers for entry into emerging businesses.

- There should be a less debt driven world economy, stricter financial regulations for all countries so that it is impossible for certain countries to keep their debt at a lower risk rate as this results in unfair competitions. There is a need for the government to take a deep look at the income differences in countries and between countries. We should try and understand the downward trend in labor income shares.
- Stimulate the financial sector to grow their investments in more durable and sustainable markets. Governments need to collaborate with banks, companies to identify the competitive advantages they have over other countries and then they agree to re-structure their loan base, establish creditworthiness, expand businesses and inherent value, as it will help government to build a lot of strategic relationship within numerous companies that are ready to add value.

- The financial sector is about to change rapidly with the upcoming Fin-tech and crypto-currency trends in the following years, the institutions themselves should change to keep a robust income flow.
- Supervisory institutions should regulate crypto currencies by implementing policies on taxing, trading and initial coin offerings.
- Promotion of venture funding, a stability assessment update should be created by national venture fund companies to first accommodate companies at various stages of their development and offer them the opportunity for securing long and short term capital, broaden their global investor base and provide liquidity for their shareholding.
- Participation of Private Equity funding in Africa: there is doubt that Africa will become the next global private equity hub as we continue to discover lot of investment potentials at each sector in Africa. This presents a great opportunity for all African countries to start looking at participating in the Private Equity financing especially in sectors like renewable energy, oil and gas, agriculture and urban infrastructure. Thus, this will attract huge global private capital flows mix with global partnership and trading.

### **4.3. COMMITTEE III: TECHNOLOGICAL CHALLENGES**

Chair: Jayasutha Samuthiran, National University of Singapore, Assistant Manager, Global Innovation at Diageo, Singapore

Secretary General: Caroline H. Santos, HEC Montréal, Client Partner Analyst at Air Canada, Canada

#### **Executive Summary:**

- Technological improvements can be implemented through various relevant channels. With an important role in building smart nations, both urban and rural, technology is a priority for governments worldwide. Technology adoption, educating communities on technology, the impact of technology on the job market, the value attributed to individual data privacy in the advent of technology and the arguable meaningfulness of this in view of national security – with the advent of technology, these are crucial global ramifications of concern.
- The most vulnerable segments of society should be the benchmark upon which to base the user-friendliness of technology. Academic curriculums and professional development education syllabi should be adapted to reflect technological changes. This would ensure comprehensive technological literacy.
- Cyber security can be enhanced by moving government agencies that possess particularly sensitive data away from the internet and into intranet systems.
- Sustainable technology should be prioritized when introducing new technology to developing nations. Special ecological zones should be reserved in every country to serve as sustainable technology test beds that can then be replicated nationwide and inspire global emulation.

#### **Recommendations:**

- **Smart Nations & Inclusivity**
  - We need to move toward a digital economy that is underpinned by e-Governance and cashless economy.

- From an e-Governance perspective, it allows for a one-stop portal that enables every citizen to access the full suite of government services through a single platform. This significantly reduces bureaucratic red tape, increases efficiency and enhances accessibility of government-related services for all citizens. It provides for a personalized relationship between the government and its people where two-way communication can be effectively facilitated.
- A cashless economy allows for traceable and transparent trail of money that is being transacted. This combats corruption, black money and other fraudulent tax evasion activities. A single card with a chip is a possible solution that allows people to top up cash value and use a single tool for most general transactions such as public transport, electronic road pricing, purchasing food, etc.
- Congestion is a key impediment to economic progress in many megacities. Communicating real-time information on traffic conditions and having smart roads that are able to regulate their speed limit would alleviate this problem.
- Rural areas are often isolated, and thus less receptive to technology.
  - A top-down approach: A small group of local chieftains can be identified as first movers in bringing technology to the rural areas they oversee. Subsequently, they can then be technology champions who influence their fellow counterparts to adopt a similar approach. This will enable technology to reach rural areas through a relevant local advocate. Alternatively, a private-public sector partnership could be established wherein the government engages a corporate entity to lead technological development in a selected rural area. The entity would then provide modes of technology at a reasonable cost to that area. The government could incentivize this model through the provision of tax breaks to the corporate entity involved.
  - A bottom-up approach: Governments should incentivize programs that facilitate earn & learn programs through which young people from the city serve in rural areas as technology advocates. These youths will act as the nodal points through which technology transfers between urban and rural areas are affected.
- Technology should not leave anyone out. We need to ensure that any technology that is implemented nationwide is user-friendly, accessible and inclusive for all, especially vulnerable/marginalized segments of society. We should test the usability of any emerging technology on these segments before it is implemented nationwide.

– **Technology research and education**

- We should forge stronger and wider partnerships bilaterally and multilaterally, especially between developed and developing countries, to deepen and diversify international connections to enable growth in frontier technology. This would include deep technology such as medtech, biotech, cleantech and the like. Leveraging on the best global talent, together we can propel growth in cutting edge technology that would benefit people globally.
- Alongside a burgeoning tech sector around the world, there exists a palpable tech skills shortage. It is imperative to incorporate technology education within the existing education system, with an emphasis on coding. This would provide students with a credible exposure to tech skills and the tech industry, empowering those interested to pursue specialized tech education later on in their academic journey.
- Although introducing technology to children from a young age is essential, it is important to mitigate the negative aspects of heavy and addictive technology usage by the young which results in children that do not actively engage in traditional indoor and outdoor play. Introducing technology in early childhood should be done in partnership with parents who would then engage in healthy and effective tech learning with their child.

**– Technology's impact on job security**

- Disruptive technology often results in a loss of jobs in traditional sectors that are transformed by the emergent technology. Change is often painful and the loss of jobs impact society. Although it is important to minimize the impact on those affected, it must be noted that technology is in fact an enabler that creates new jobs.
- We should equip those retrenched with skills to take on these newly created roles. It is crucial for governments to be keenly in tune with developments in the tech sector, and forecast the jobs of the future in the context of their respective economies so that, with sufficient foresight, they can then prepare their people for a transformative future.

**– Safe & secure technology**

- Preventive counter-terrorism efforts often require the government prying into an individuals' data to identify those who are at risk of being radicalized. On the other hand, individuals largely value their data privacy, despite also supporting national security. We could bridge this disconnect by creating national platforms through which the lay person could volunteer information on suspicious persons, activity or objects. This platform would facilitate direct and easy communication between the people and the authorities.
- In the light of major data breaches in various countries, cyber security is a matter of tremendous concern worldwide. Government affiliated organizations such as those overseeing defense or healthcare should move away from the internet to intranets that completely and comprehensively prevent data breaches. The internet could be accessed from separate computers.
- Facilitated by technology and social media, the worldwide proliferation of fake news has been a key cause for concern. Certain false news has the potential to stir racial or religious tensions and impinge on national security. Akin to propaganda, there is little that can be done apart from educating the public and empowering them with the skills to analyze news critically, never reading them at face value.

**– Sustainability & technology**

- The potential of sustainable energy through hydrogen fuel cells should be harnessed through investment in intensive research to validate the technology and accelerate its application.
- As spaces in which traditional energy sources have not been deeply rooted, developing countries, with sufficient economic and financial incentives, are poised to lead the change from the traditional to sustainable energy sources.
- Akin to special economic zones, we should carve out several special ecological zones in each country that exclusively implement green technology. These regions would be living examples of the benefits of green and clean tech and would then inspire other regions that would emulate their sustainable energy success.

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THE VIEWS AND RECOMMENDATIONS ON THE FIVE TOPICS ARE THOSE OF THE THREE COMMITTEES WORKING ON EACH OF THESE TOPICS. THEY DO NOT NECESSARILY REFLECT THE POSITION OF ALL THE G200 YOUTH SUMMIT PARTICIPANTS.

## 5. G200 YOUTH FORUM 2017 CONFERENCE

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The Conference platform of the G200 Youth Forum 2017 consisted of three round tables: Economics and Finance; World Politics and Human Rights; Humanities, Environment and Social Affairs. The platform brought together students, practitioners, and academics representing universities and governments from seven countries.

### 5.1. ROUND TABLE I: ECONOMICS AND FINANCE

Secretary General: Mr. Gonçalo Lima, Student, SCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal  
 Chair: Mr. Li Tang, Assistant Professor, Tianjin University of Finance and Economics

Speakers of the Round Table I: Economics and Finance

Nr.	Name	Title	University	Presentation
1	Gonçalo Lima	(Student) Mr.	ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa	Better schools, same resources: An International Comparison of School Efficiency
2	Li Tang	(Assistant Professor) Ms.	Tianjin University of Finance and Economics	Cross border e-commerce and its influence on SMEs in China
3	Xinkun Chen	(Student) Mr.	University of Canberra	The influence of ASB 112 to financial decision making
4	Xiao Zhi Chao	(PhD candidate) Mr.	Tianjin University of Finance and Economics	The Equivalent Mechanism of Accounting Standards in the Belt and Road Initiatives

The round table on Economics and Finance started with a discussion on the efficiency of school education across OECD countries. The research focused on the factors that explain differences in the efficient use of school resources across 34 different education systems. The results from the research showed that larger, public and more autonomous schools are also more efficient in providing quality education to their students. However, the results also suggest that most of the differences in efficiency are driven by variation in the institutional design of the education systems rather than school management. In any case, there is no one-size-fits-all solution to improve school efficiency around the globe without attention to local socio-economic differences.

Discussants highlighted the importance of the topic presented. It was mentioned that the focus could be restricted to public schools as these perform a different function. Further research was suggested in the area of higher education that deals with different efficiency problems. Discussants finally stated that studying and learning time could be taken as an input of the efficiency analysis.

The following presentation addressed the issue of cross border e-commerce in China and its impact on the activity of small and medium enterprises (SMEs). The sector has been growing rapidly in the country and presents several advantages, such as cutting intermediaries in trade. The structure of China's cross border e-commerce is unbalanced with business-to-business trade dominating business-to-consumer, although the structure has been changing in recent years. SMEs are still facing a lot of issues in adopting such type of trade, and those problems should not be overlooked.

Discussants highlighted the impact of the development of e-commerce on environmental sustainability and the pressures on the labor market of 'traditional industries'. Discussants also agreed that the change from a business-to-business to business-to-consumer dominated structure will need to run in parallel with

changes in legislation in this area: contractual arrangements between buyers, sellers and e-commerce platforms, as well as the impacts of technological development on this relationship will need to be carefully assessed.

The Economics and Finance round table finalized with two presentations addressing the issue of accounting standards and its impact on businesses, first based on an Australian perspective and later on a Chinese perspective. In the first case, standard financial indicators were compared for two companies in light of the Australian accounting standards (AASB 112). The latter focused on the reasons for reformulation of accounting standards in light of the ‘Belt and Road Initiative’ – a development program focused on connectivity and cooperation between Eurasian countries.

## **5.2. ROUND TABLE II: WORLD POLITICS AND HUMAN RIGHTS**

Secretary General: Mr. Gonçalo Lima, Student, SCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal  
 Chair: Clarisa J. A. Lutmann, Student, Leiden University, The Netherlands

Speakers of the Round Table II: World Politics and Human Rights

Nr.	Name	Title	University	Presentation
1	Afonso Bento	(PhD candidate) Mr.	ISCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa	What is prison for? The ‘professional ethos’ of prison guards and education officers
2	Knorad Osajda	(Professor) Mr.	Faculty of Law and Administration, Polish Young Academy, Polish Academy of Sciences Poland	Horizontal Effect of Human Rights
3	Artem Sheikin	(Head of the Youth Collegium of St. Petersburg) Mr.	Administration of St. Petersburg	Youth Policy in Russia. Image of a young leader of the 21 <sup>st</sup> century
4	Clarissa J. A. Lutmann	(Student) Ms.	Leiden University	Scared Off: Comey’s Letters to Congress and the Impact of Uncertainty on Voter Choice

The round table on World Politics and Human Rights started with a discussion on the professional ethos of prison guards and education officers in the context of the Portuguese penal system. The research, motivated by the recent rise of the incarceration rate, was based on ethnographic and interview fieldwork in two prisons in Portugal. A major concern raised regarded the fact that, despite the law, education officers have in practice almost full discretion to determine prisoners that can still be recovered through reintegration in society and those that do not.

Discussants stressed the relevance of looking into the issue of over-occupancy rates of prisons. The reasons for the increase in incarceration rates were also discussed. Although there is no sufficient research on the topic, a potential explanation for the phenomenon in the context of Portuguese judicial system, is an increased punitive attitude by judges, in light of a relatively benevolent view on the effectiveness of the penal law in the country. Finally, discussant addressed the importance of media attention to shape the interpretation of the law and ultimately affect the trend in incarceration rates.

The following presentation focused on the horizontal (or third-party) effect of human rights. Traditionally, the concept of human rights was to protect the citizens from the discretionary power of states. However, as people became gradually aware that individuals are also threatened by groups of

interest (e.g., firms, political parties, etc.). Third-party effects and the application of human rights horizontally is both rational and technically possible, however, it requires further in-depth analysis and interdisciplinary discussions.

Discussants focused on the issue of the universality of human rights and its validity. Many people see human right as an imposition of a foreign (westernized) morality. It was highlighted that the issue of human rights is an open concept, which varies across contexts and nations, although its basic principles are universal by nature – only the evolving process of concrete court cases created a multiplicity of different understandings of human rights.

The round table later turned to focus on issues of local, national and world politics. It was presented the case of youth policy programs in the city of St. Petersburg, in Russia. The presentation described the different goals and strategies followed by the administration of the city and the Youth Collegium of St. Petersburg to engage young people in a career as officials and attract them to develop the city and that this has reflected on the participation of young people in the implementation of projects at the regional, federal and international level.

Discussants asked for the clarification of the definition of youth in Russia, followed by a clearer identification of the main functions of the Youth Collegium. It was stated that there are Collegiums in each region of the country, as well as other governmental bodies delivering youth-related policies. In particular, the discussants brought to the attention of the presenter other experiences of youth involvement in policy-development in their own countries.

Finally, the round table ended with a presentation on the effect of the publication of the letters of Mr. James Comey, the then Director of the FBI, on the involvement of presidential candidate Ms. Hilary Clinton in inadequate email server usage, in the results of the last United States electoral results. Evidence was provided showing that the announcements did have a significant impact on the reduction of the margin between the presidential candidates. Despite the first announcement being later counteracted by a correcting statement few days after, the effect, reinforced by bounded rationality and incomplete updating of beliefs and grounded on a rational reaction to uncertainty led to Mr. Comey's interference to have factually altered the results of the US election.

Discussants stressed the importance of addressing the problems posed by the growing power of media in diverting opinion and influence decision-making. It was mentioned that the existent legal tools to overcome issues of 'fake news' or news that are prone to overreaction by the public are not sufficient to control damages. Discussants also highlighted that easiness in misleading voter choices creates greater political tensions and leads to consider the validity of alternative models of democracy (e.g., using knowledge-tested voting). Finally, other discussants agreed with the position that, despite the influence of the letters in the result of the election, that other contextual factors were also instrumental to the election results and these should not be minimized in the explanation.

### **5.3. ROUND TABLE III: HUMANITIES, ENVIRONMENT AND SOCIAL AFFAIRS**

Secretary General: Mr. Gonçalo Lima, Student, SCTE – Instituto Universitário de Lisboa, Portugal  
 Chair: Tandi Charmaine Kuwana, Mental Health Nurse, Central Queensland University, Australia

Speakers of the Round Table III: Humanities, Environment and Social Affairs

Nr.	Name	Title	University	Presentation
1	Lujun Qi	(PhD candidate) Mr.	Tianjin University of Finance and Economics	The Effect of Fund Investor Network on CSR Performance: with the Background of Green Governance
2	Carlos Radic Biazik	(Student) Mr.	Centennial College	Getting Wiser with The Food We Consume:

				The Key to Diminish Global Famine and Climate Change
3	Lin Zhang	(Student) Ms.	Tianjin University of Finance and Economics	Research of Game Strategy on the Online Public Opinion in the Mode of Individual Help for Online Donation
4	Tandi Charmaine Kuwana	(Mental Health Nurse) Ms.	Central Queensland University	The recovery approach to the silent outbreak of Mental Illness in People of African descent
5	Sainan Zhang	(Student) Ms.	Tianjin University of Finance and Economics	The new development of qualitative research approach in language teaching and learning

The round table on Humanities, Environment and Social Affairs started with a presentation on green governance and its relation to investment patterns in China. While fund investors play an important role in corporate governance, by monitoring the behavior of managers and having the potential to leverage corporate social responsibility (CSR). The relationship between fund investors and CSR performance was examined through the study of the independent effects of peer pressure and centrality degree in funds networks. The results show that fund investors impact positively on firm CSR performance, leading to conclude that the engagement of institutional funds on the governance of firms is unquestionable, and may lead firms to become more engaged with socially responsible and active investments. Policymakers should promote the presence of fund investors' directors on listed companies' boards as they support CSR.

Discussants stressed the relevance of the research and pointed towards potential new venues of research, namely by focusing on building hypotheses for different types of network centrality measures and their impact in the results.

The following presentation focused on the strategies to diminish global famine and climate change. It was stressed that the solutions for solving the problem of food waste resides on changing consumers' patterns of behavior through proper education. The presentation focused on solutions that pass by changes in food waste policies, business practices and individual incentives to reduce waste.

Discussants highlighted the importance of the issues raised by the presentation. Discussants also stressed the relevance of looking into the dynamics of demand and supply to tackle food waste and that the solutions for this do not necessarily overlap with solutions to famine in developing countries. Added research would be relevant to improve the distribution of food to more deprived areas. In areas with food shortage, famine eradication crucially depends on the design of institutional changes leveraged by technological development.

The third presentation focused on the online public opinion for online donations. Charitable donations through the internet have been growing. A dynamic game model was used to analyze the different behavior strategies of participants in the evolution process of online public opinion regarding online fundraising. It was suggested that the relevant fundraising online platform should establish a reasonable risk control mechanism to strengthen the authenticity and the real-time tracking of the use of funds to promote the trustworthiness of such fundraising.

The penultimate presentation focused on the recovery approach to the silent outbreak of mental illness in people of African descent. The rate of suicide and mental illness is on the rise in people from Culturally and Linguistically Diverse communities (CaLD) meaning that it becomes paramount to address the lack of engagement with mental health services from people from CaLD. Access to culturally tailored mental

health services should be part of the mental health agenda in Australia, especially to people of African descent where spiritual and religious beliefs still play an important role in their relation to mental health.

Discussants stressed the importance of the theme presented. It was agreed that mental illness is still seen as a *tabu* topic in African countries. The issue is particularly relevant in African communities in developed countries, where mental health issues are still seen as a weakness within the community.

Finally the round conference concluded with a presentation on the development of qualitative research in language teaching and learning. The presentation explored the importance of three qualitative research methods (narrative studies, ethnography and case studies) in linguistics. Attention in linguistic qualitative studies has been shifting from a theoretical perspective in order to focus on more practical issues, which will represent a substantial improvement in research methods.

## **6. INTERNATIONAL YOUNG PARLIAMENTARIANS' DEBATE JOINT STATEMENT**

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### **6.1. WOMEN'S RIGHTS, FAMILY, CHILD SUPPORT AND WELFARE**

- Governments should enforce human rights and not discriminate and tolerate discrimination;
- Governments should act as role models;
- Governments should not tolerate inequality between women and men;
- We reject all laws where man and woman are not equally treated;
- The international community has to provide food and shelter programs and secure human rights near areas of conflict;
- In the fight of poverty education, personal development and employability is key;
- Governments have the obligation to set a stage to create opportunities and an equal level playing field for employment, personal development and education;
- Individuals have the responsibility to take the chances created by the government;
- The best social cure for poverty is a job and social participation. We need to create equal opportunities for everyone;
- All institutions have to build policies to increase the opportunities for everyone to get a job. This is the best way to decrease poverty;
- Welfare starts with education for everyone;

### **6.2. SPORT AND YOUTH POLICY, CULTURE, EDUCATION AND MEDIA**

- Sport plays an important role and is a basic requirement for a healthy start in life
- Sport increases personal development and decreases criminality;
- Governments should prioritize creating a good sport infrastructure;
- Governments have the obligation to provide physical sport accommodations for youth;
- Governments should focus on empowering youth in rural areas;
- Governments should create an infrastructure to allow individuals/institutions/companies to explore environmental issues and to take action to improve the environment;
- The basic key elements for happiness are education and self-development.

### **6.3. BUSINESS AND ENTREPRENEURSHIP, INNOVATIONS AND TOURISM**

- Revolving funds are an alternative for grants to stimulate the economy and market;
- Governments should strive to provide the best possible conditions for innovation and economic growth and where possible with application of the 'triple helix approach'.

### **6.4. LEGAL FRAMEWORK AND INTERNATIONAL LAW**

- Governments should be as transparently as possible;
- Governments have the responsibility to make data understandable and accessible;

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