

## B20 Press Release

B20 President Jürgen Heraeus: G20 Leaders' Declaration "Shaping an Interconnected World" shows mixed results

- B20 welcomes the final G20 Leaders' Declaration as a partial success, given the difficult negotiating climate
- Declaration on trade secures the status quo; 19 G20 members are committed to implementing the Paris Climate Agreement
- G20 must now fill the Declaration with life

"Naturally, we had hoped for something more substantial with more concrete policy actions", said Jürgen Heraeus, President of the B20, the official G20 dialogue partner, after the G20 Summit came to a close. "In view of the difficult negotiating climate, however, the Declaration can be regarded as a success, even if it does little more than secure the status quo in many areas", Heraeus continued. "It is thanks to the diplomatic skill of the German federal government that the G20 members were able to reach compromises at all", said the President of the B20.

"We are greatly relieved that the G20 members agreed on a joint declaration on trade. Failure to do so would have been a major setback for the international trading system and for the G20", emphasized Heraeus. The B20 welcomes the G20's commitment to open markets, the willingness of its members to fight protectionism, and their announcement to work together towards a successful WTO ministerial conference in Argentina later this year. However, the language often remains painfully vague. "Phrases such as 'all unfair trade practices' might open a door to new protectionism", warned Heraeus. The G20 has also missed the opportunity to agree on a modern trade agenda fit for the 21st century. "This is unfortunate", said Heraeus. "There is too little on digital trade and investment in the Declaration".

In the area of climate and energy, all G20 members, apart from the United States, recommitted to implement the Paris Climate Agreement. The B20 welcomes the fact that the remaining 19 G20 members clearly rejected the desire of the United States to renegotiate the Agreement by calling it 'irreversible'. "This gives our businesses at least some planning certainty". The B20 also welcomes the G20 'Climate and Energy Action Plan for Growth'. "We regret, however, that the Action Plan does not include mechanisms for carbon pricing", said Heraeus. The B20 is very concerned that Turkey challenged the agreement a few hours after the G20 Summit. "The 19 G20 members should not allow themselves to be divided now", stressed Heraeus. Progress has been made in the area of resource efficiency. "I am particularly pleased that the G20 members have agreed to launch a G20 dialogue on resource efficiency. This is an important step in the right direction", explained Heraeus.

Digitalization was one of the main focus areas of the German G20 Presidency. "This is an important topic for our members", emphasized Heraeus. The G20 recognizes the digital transformation as a driving force for global, innovative, inclusive and sustainable growth that can help reduce inequalities and achieve the objectives of the UN Agenda 2030 for sustainable development. By 2025, all citizens are to be digitally connected. "I am pleased that the G20 members want to close the digital divide, promoting digital literacy in all educational paths, and investing more in infrastructure", said Heraeus. However, the B20 regrets the fact that the G20 Declaration is falling behind expectations in many key economic issues. "We had hoped for more regarding global standards, IT security, and the potential of artificial intelligence", Heraeus regrets.

An important success of the German G20 Presidency is the new partnership with Africa, the 'Compact with Africa'. With the reform partnerships, the G20 wants to improve the framework conditions for investments in the African partner countries. The partnerships are about economic development, but also about promoting peace, stability, and security.

The Summit was overshadowed by violent riots. "A critical review of the G20 and the Summit Declaration is important. We will certainly also read the Declaration and its annexes very carefully", said Heraeus. "The violence and brutality of the protests, however, is unacceptable".

You can find the G20 Summit Documents [here](#).

You can find the B20 Recommendations [here](#).

### **About B20**

*The Business 20 (B20) is the official G20 dialogue with the global business community. The mission of the B20 is to support the G20 through consolidated representation of interests, expertise, and concrete policy proposals. Furthermore, the B20 promotes dialogue among policy-makers, civil society, and business at the international level.*

*The German B20 is organized by the Federation of German Industries (BDI), the Confederation of German Employers' Associations (BDA), and the Association of German Chambers of Commerce and Industry (DIHK). The B20 is headed by B20 Chair Jürgen Heraeus (Heraeus Holding). He is assisted by the three members of the Executive Committee Dieter Kempf, President of BDI, Eric Schweitzer, President of DIHK, and Ingo Kramer, President of BDA, as well as B20 Sherpa Stormy-Annika Mildner. B20 Germany has more than 700 members from all sectors and all G20 members, representing the entire G20 business community.*

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