

Interview with B20 Sherpa Dr Stormy-Annika Mildner

What is your outlook on the world economy?

Mildner: Current economic forecasts are gloomy. Especially the slowdown in trade growth is worrisome, as this development seems to perpetuate rather than being an exception.

Considering the sheer amount of diverse challenges the world economy is currently confronted with, however, – violent conflicts, terrorism, climate change, the consequences of the British referendum, the refugee crisis, volatility in emerging markets and in commodity prices – we can also note that resilience has improved.

The G20 can and has to play a fundamental role in boosting innovation and growth. There are a number of tremendous opportunities that can considerably contribute to a dynamic, robust, inclusive and sustainable world economy: Digitalization, energy transition, resource efficiency, further trade and investment liberalization to mention just a few. In order to make full use of their potential we need responsible cooperative and coordinated approaches at the global level. Here, the G20 needs to act.

What is the significance of B20, in your opinion, under the background of current international economic situation?

Mildner: The B20 speaks with one voice for the entire G20 business community. Its recommendations and policy proposals thus have substantial weight and impact. Many B20 calls for actions are taken into account and reflected in G20 declarations.

The B20 is an integral part of the G20 process and of increasing importance to governments. The G20 benefits not only from the consolidated interested representation that allows to identify policies that can reach consensus in all member countries. Businesses also provide essential expertise, experience, knowledge, creativity, and implementation capacities that are crucial to finding the right solutions.

What is your goal for B20 Germany?

Mildner: Based on the strong achievements of B20 China we will deepen recommendations on financial markets, taxes, infrastructure, SMEs, anti-corruption, trade, and investment as well as employment and education. But we will also introduce new emphases such as resource efficiency, digitalization as well as energy and climate to push for the right forward-looking frameworks to be set by the G20.

The German economy is deeply integrated in the global economy through trade and investment. Its success depends on a number of factors that cannot

date
01 September 2016

page
1 of 2

B20 Germany

Internet
www.b20germany.org

E-Mail
b20germany@b20germany.org

be controlled within national borders and that need solutions at the global level. For this, we need cooperative global governance, of which the G20 has to be the centerpiece.

page
2 of 2

Infobox

As Sherpa of B20 Germany, Dr Stormy-Annika Mildner is responsible for organizing the B20 process. She is head of the Department on External Economic Policy at the Federation of German Industries and a lecturer at the Hertie School of Governance.

The B20 is the official G20 dialogue with the global business community. In thematic taskforces business representatives and experts of the entire G20 jointly prepare concrete policy proposals. The B20 also participates in the design of G20 decision throughout a perennial dialogue with all G20 members. As part of the German presidency, leading representative of governments, the civil society and economy come together in a number of events.

The Group of 20 (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. Members are 19 emerging and industrial economies as well as the EU. Together, they represent 85 percent of the world economy, 76 percent of exports of global goods and services, and 64 percent of the global population. On December 1 2016, Germany took over the annually rotating G20 presidency for the first time.