

# **C20 Priorities** **Turkey, 2015**

**Based on the results of an online survey organised  
by the C20 Turkey Steering Committee**

3 March 2015

## C20 Agenda Consultation: Report

### Introduction

The C20 (or Civil 20) is one of the official G20 (Group of 20) engagement groups, which arose as a result of the G20's recognition of the important role that civil society plays in the governance and policy formulation processes of multinational institutions. In turn, civil society organisations have been engaging with the G20 since it first became a heads of state level meeting in 2008, organising themselves in line with the global mandate of the G20 as well as the global impact of its policies, and attaching great importance to facilitating the engagement of global civil society with G20 processes in a systematic, consistent and coordinated way. C20 Turkey is the third C20 ever organised, and is facilitated by a group of 13 Turkish civil society organisations working across a range of issues at national and international levels.

The C20 Turkey steering committee started work in February 2014 with desk-based research and active preparations to design a broad-based participatory consultation process for policy development via which civil society around the world would be able to engage with the 2015 G20. This process consists of two phases: a first phase of consultation to determine the C20's agenda for 2015, and a second phase that includes a consultative, iterative process to develop civil society position papers with practical recommendations on each thematic issue.

Drawing on lessons learned from previous C20s, and informed by the C20's vision, the design of this process has been guided by the principles of openness, transparency and accountability. From the outset the C20's aim was to be inclusive and to engage as many participants from as broad a range of countries as possible. This participatory approach seeks to include the views of a diverse range of organisations and individuals from G20 countries and beyond, with a particular focus on Least Developed Countries (LDCs). This is driven by the C20's desire to act as a neutral convener and facilitator, and its intention to help build a broad-based collective civil society agenda around G20 issues.

In order to implement the broad participation and engagement desired, the C20 Turkey steering committee designed a range of consultation tools and mechanisms. The first of these was an online, multi-language survey, which the C20 launched on 9 January 2015, to help decide this year's priorities. This report presents the results of the survey, and, on this basis, indicates a possible C20 agenda for 2015. The report has been prepared with the aim of documenting the first phase of the consultation process, and to be used as a resource in the follow up processes whereby the C20's agenda and working groups will be finalised.

### Methodology

Following a [review of civil society priorities](#) since 2008 and the [Turkish G20 Presidency's agenda](#), the C20 agreed that its overarching goal for 2015 would be tackling inequalities and promoting sustainable and inclusive development. The C20 survey was designed on this basis. The survey was composed of 4 broad areas, taking the 2015 G20 agenda as a framework: strengthening recovery and lifting potential; enhancing economic resilience; buttressing sustainability; and gender equality. The sub-issues were grouped in such a way as to reflect the thematic issues on the Turkey's G20 agenda, with gender added as a standalone category in order to ensure the inclusion of gender issues in all the policy discussions that will be undertaken by civil society. Published in 6 languages (English, Turkish, French, Spanish, Arabic and Mandarin Chinese), the survey asked participants to indicate which issues they thought were most important for civil society in 2015. Each participant was able to choose up to 2 issues from each of the four thematic areas.

The survey was live for 6 weeks; during this time, the C20 actively promoted it in order to secure maximum input and as broad a spectrum of perspectives as possible. The C20 Turkey steering committee inherited an email database from C20 Australia of around 650 civil society and government contacts from around the world. This was supplemented by a mapping of civil society networks in all G20 countries, which produced a

list of around 80 civil society networks. In total, the survey was sent directly to around 850 individuals, representing CSOs (civil society organisations), government, media and business across G20 and non-G20 countries. Additionally, the C20 relied heavily on the organisational and personal networks of steering committee members, including the United Nations and other multilateral institutions, to further promote participation. Full data on network membership is not available for all organisations, and it has not been possible to track exact circulation figures. However, it is estimated that the survey was passed on to over 6,500 organisations, networks and individuals via the C20 Turkey Steering Committee, and that these organisations have a potential reach of over 35,000 member organisations. With 1169 respondents in total, this gives a conversion rate of around 17.98%, which is in line with sector-wide standards.

## Limitations

As with all surveys of this nature, the methodology had a number of limitations. Firstly, although participation in the survey was in principle open to all, the technical language and online medium are likely to have excluded some participants by default. However, this was always likely to be the case with this subject matter therefore the survey was designed to appeal to as wide a range of civil society organisations as possible in the first instance. Secondly, in an effort to make taking part as flexible and simple as possible, drawing on lessons learned from past C20s about the drop-off in participation rates as a result of overly complex sign-up mechanisms, the number of mandatory fields was purposefully limited. However, this had a number of drawbacks, including a lack of gender disaggregated data and a lack of comprehensive information on participating organisations. This latter challenge arose as the survey did not require respondents to provide details on their organisation, and nor did it require respondents who did provide details of their organisation to clarify whether theirs was an individual or an organisational response. This means that we have an incomplete record of which organisations have been represented in the process to date. Finally, the approach taken to outreach, which relied heavily on referrals, did not allow comprehensive monitoring and evaluation of the circulation rates of the survey, and therefore it is difficult to evaluate response rates. Moving forward with this consultation process, we will seek to strike a better balance between ease of participation and collection of pertinent data on participants. Additionally, we will invest more in tracking of response rates to help strengthen our findings.

## Participation

The C20 survey received **1169** individual responses in total, representing **388** organisations from **91** different countries. The following presents a brief analysis of the results of this survey. As expected, by far the most commonly-used response language was English (59% of total responses), followed by Turkish (36% of total responses). The other languages were much less frequently used.

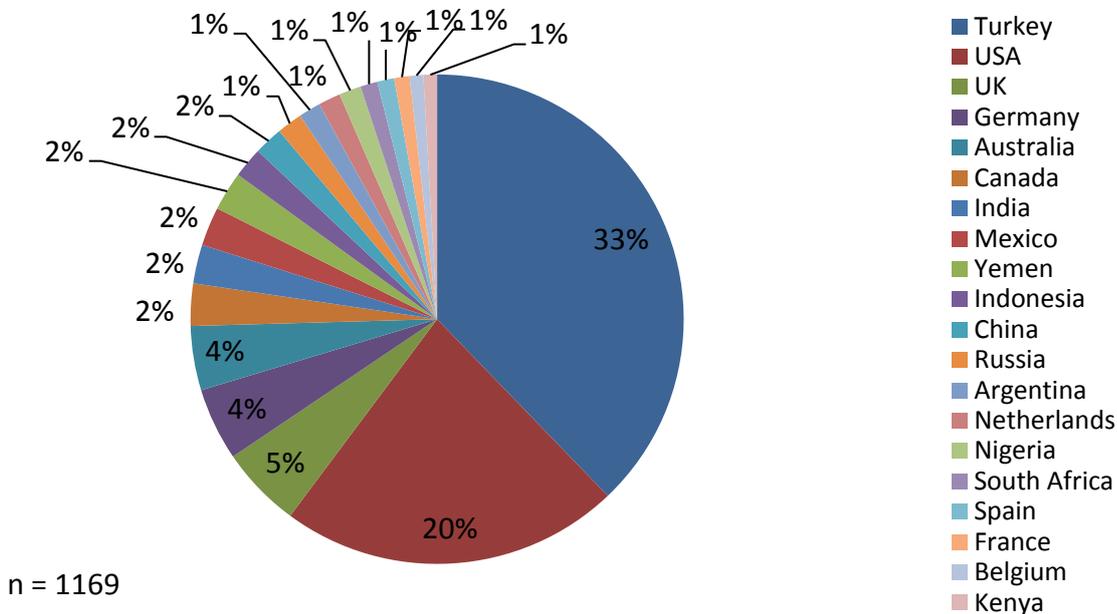


Chart 1: top 20 countries by % of overall participants (n=1169)

Of the total participants, 33% were from Turkey. This predominance is to be expected, given that Turkey is the G20 host country and therefore the single largest focus of promotion. However, the results also represent a diverse range of other countries. After Turkey, the top 4 respondent countries were the USA (20%); UK (5%); Germany (4%); and Australia (4%). 14 Least Developed Countries (LDCs) are represented in these results, alongside 55 other non-G20 countries. The results also include respondents from every G20 country, including many European Union countries.

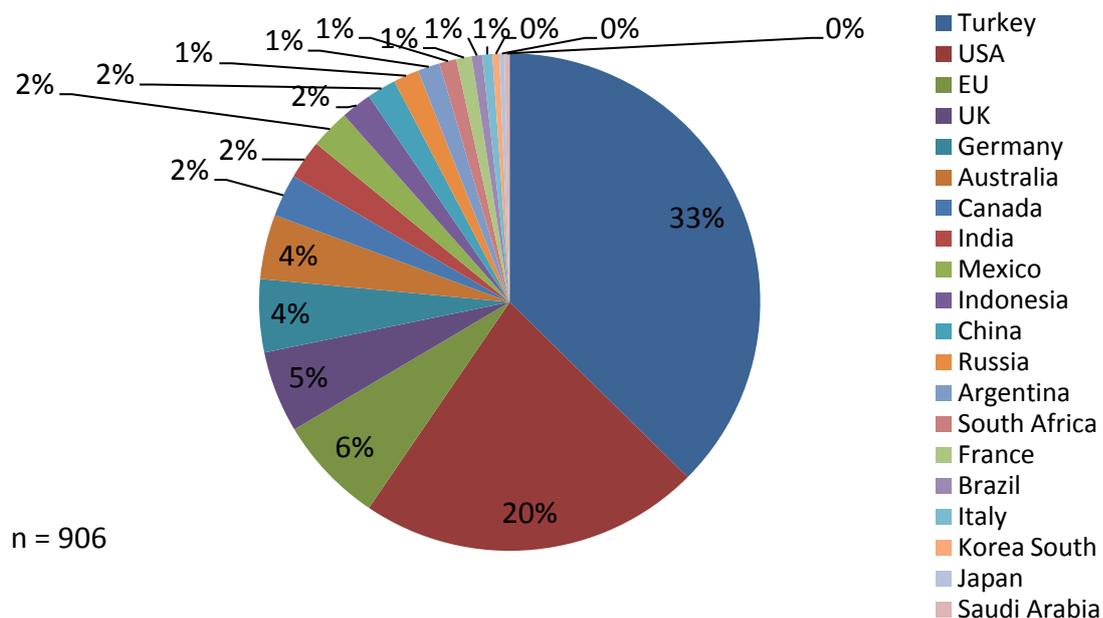


Chart 2: G20 countries by % of overall participants (n = 906)

It is interesting to note that participation from previous G20 host countries is not markedly higher than that from other countries, indicating a possible loss of interest by civil society as the presidency shifts. The data from the current survey is not sufficient to explain the reasons behind this relatively limited civil society engagement in G20 processes; however, it is safe to assume that the explanation will include multiple factors, including civil society perceptions of the extent to which governments value CSO input, as well as idiosyncratic civil society ways of working, prioritising and selecting audiences for influencing.

## Organisational representation

Taking into consideration the limitations noted above, the top organisations by respondent numbers represented a mix of Turkish, international and other national organisations. No single type of organisation dominated.

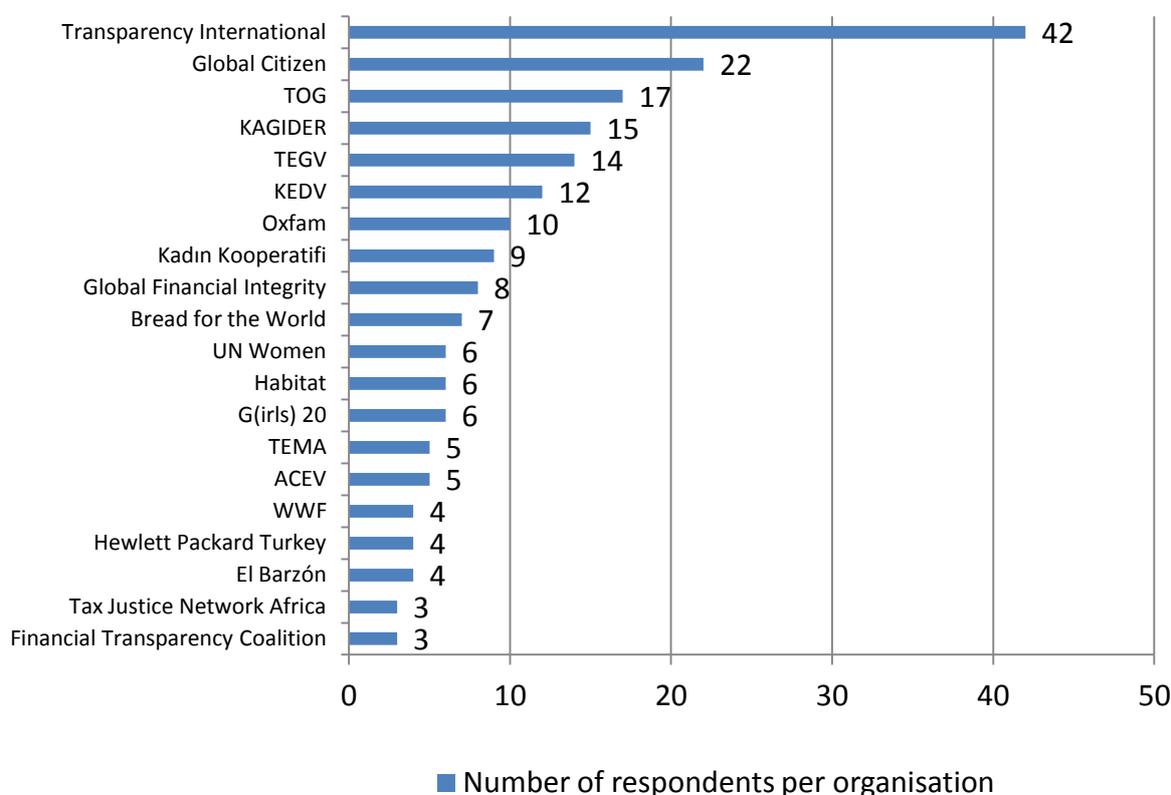


Chart 3: Top 20 organisations by number of respondents (n = 1169)

## Findings

The results of the survey were made publicly available on the C20 website throughout the survey's lifetime, and updated in real time. This not only increased the transparency and openness of this consultation mechanism, but also allowed early tracking of responses. A number of clear trends emerged in the first few weeks of the consultation process which were subsequently borne out in the final results. The chart below shows the top 8 priority issues for respondents overall.

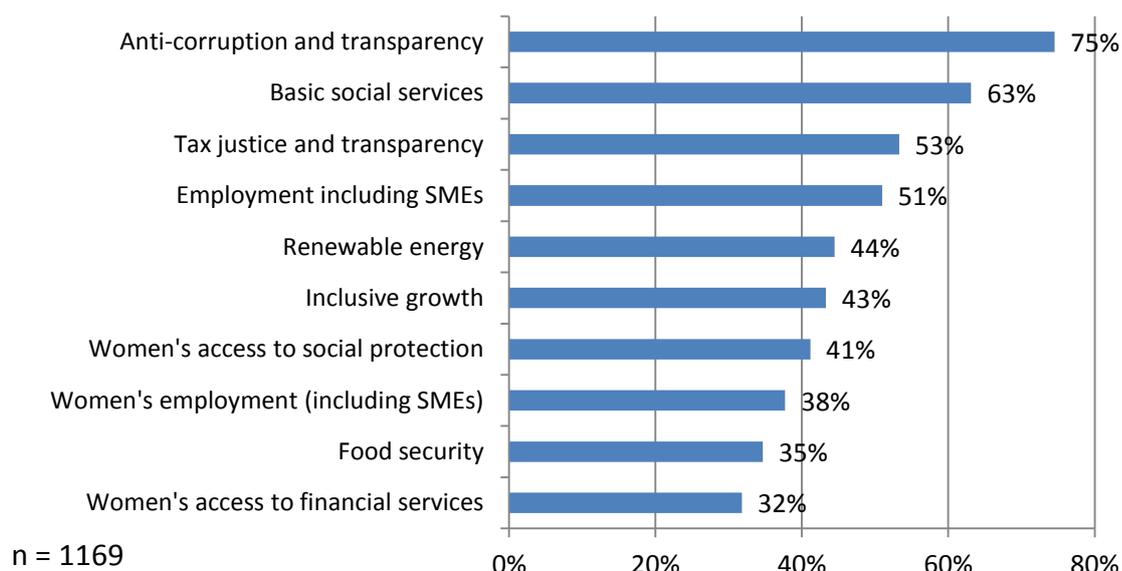


Chart 4: top 10 priority issues for participants overall (n=1169)

The chart below contains the results of C20 Australia's policy consultation process, which involved **360** respondents. The increased response rate in the 2015 agenda consultation is an encouraging sign of the increasing institutionalisation of the C20. It also hints at an increasing awareness about the C20's policy consultation process amongst international civil society. Even more striking is the degree of consistency in focus amongst civil society between 2014 and 2015. The C20 survey took tackling inequality and promoting sustainable, inclusive development as its overarching theme, with the inclusive growth sub-issue polling strongly, with 43% of the total vote. In Australia, inequality was posited as a separate thematic issue but polled similarly strongly, appearing amongst the top three thematic issues. Moreover, anti-corruption and tax transparency both ranked amongst the top two priority thematic issues in 2014 and 2015, indicating that civil society sees measures to tackle corruption and tax transparency as vital for addressing inequalities. Several other thematic issues that appeared amongst the top 10 priorities in the 2015 C20 survey were also ranked amongst the top 10 issues in 2014, including access to basic social services, climate and food security. Finally, if these figures are compared to the priorities of C20 Russia, it is possible to say that anti-corruption, inclusive and equitable growth, employment, access to basic services, and climate and sustainability have all reliably appeared on every C20 agenda since 2013.

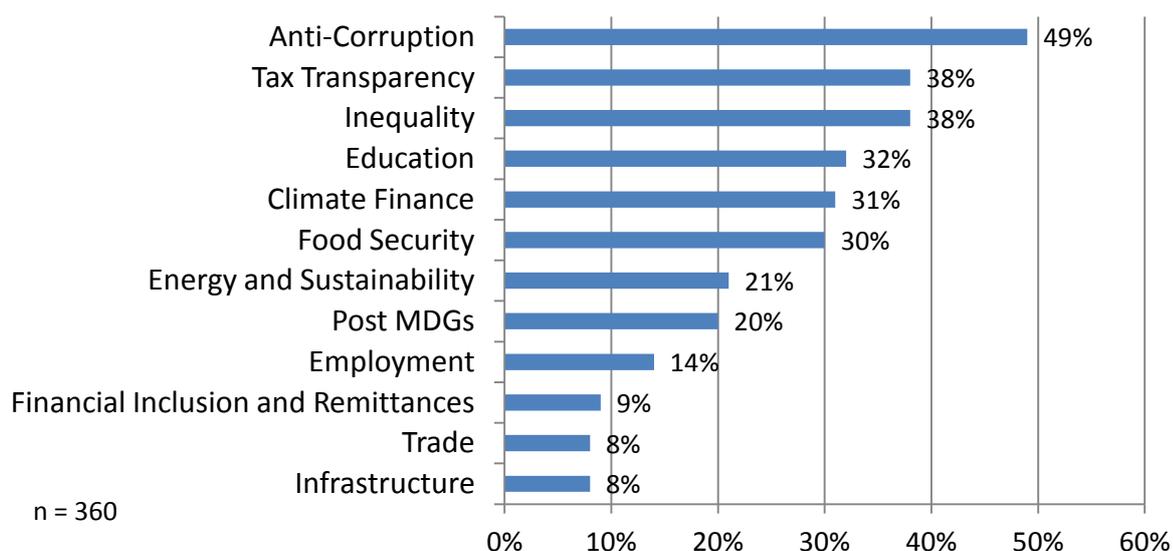


Chart 5: C20 Australia policy priorities, ranked according to frequency with which cited as top 3 concern

## Turkish trends

Given the preponderance of Turkish respondents and the fact that the G20 is hosted this year by Turkey, it is worthwhile to compare Turkish responses with global responses, to see if there are any trends specific to the former.

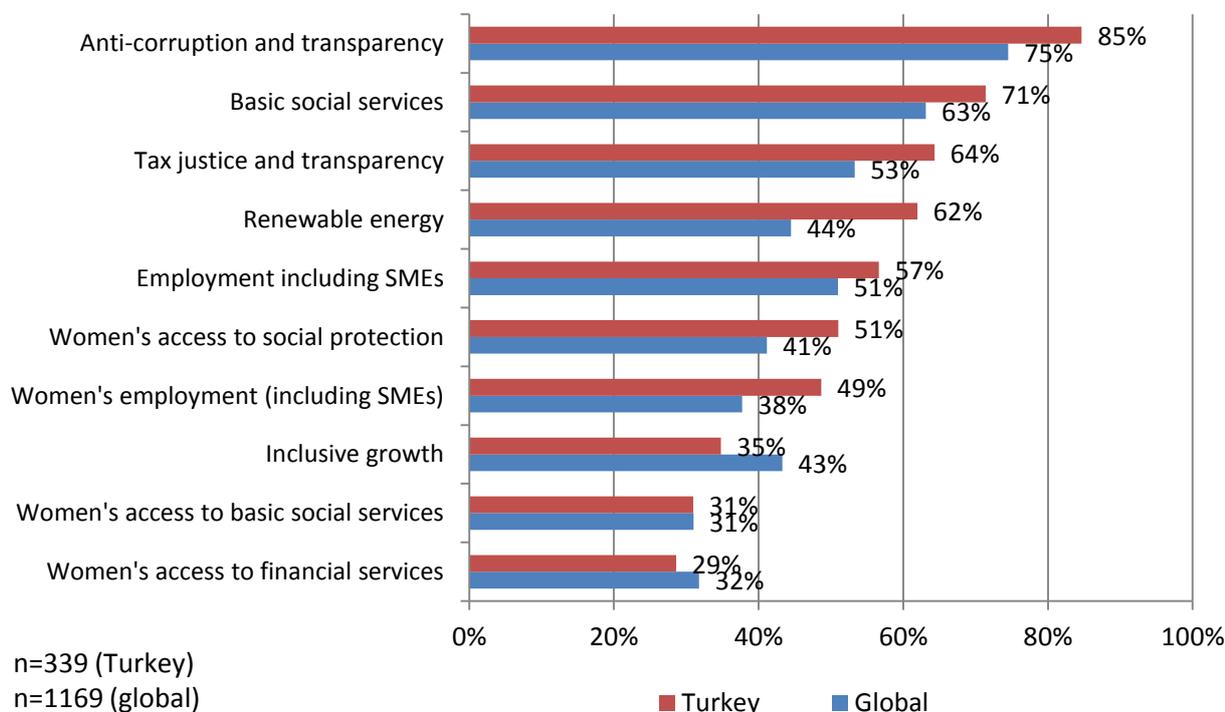


Chart 5: top issues of concern, Turkey participants compared to overall participants

It is interesting to note that, many of the top 10 priorities selected by Turkish respondents mirror those chosen by respondents in general, but with a slightly stronger weighting. For example, 85% of Turkish respondents voted for anti-corruption and transparency, in comparison to 75% of overall respondents. Nevertheless, the structure of priorities is broadly the same for both groups, with the same issues ranking most highly. The only major difference is that infrastructure investment appears in the top priorities for Turkish respondents, and food security does not. For respondents in general, food security is a higher priority than infrastructure investment.

Thematic issue	Rank globally	Rank in Turkey
Anti-corruption and transparency	1	1
Basic social services	2	2
Tax justice and transparency	3	3
Employment including SMEs	4	5
Renewable energy	5	4
Inclusive growth	6	8
Women's access to social protection	7	6
Women's employment (including SMEs)	8	7
Women's access to basic social services	9	9
Women's access to financial services	10	10

Table 1: thematic issue rankings, comparison between global and Turkey rankings

## Proposed C20 Priorities for 2015

The survey questions listed a total of 21 sub-issues, divided under 4 broad thematic areas, as noted above. Participants were asked to select a maximum of 2 sub-issues under each thematic area. The reason for this attempt to limit the number of thematic issues from the outset is the lessons learned from the past experiences, and the documented difficulties in managing processes as the number of thematic areas, and consequently the number of working groups, increases. It was therefore decided that the 8 sub-issues getting the highest proportion of votes through this survey would be classified under 4 broad thematic areas. What is evident from the overall list of issues that scored most highly is that there are clear overlaps between many of the themes that polled most strongly in the survey.

Thus, the C20 Priorities for 2015 will be as follows:



These four broad areas would form the basis for working groups for the second phase of consultation, during which civil society positions on each sub-issue will be developed. Therefore, based on the overall results of the online survey, the following structure for the C20 agenda and working groups is proposed:

### Next steps

The C20 Turkey Steering Committee met with the C20 International Advisory Committee at the end of February to review and analyse the findings of this survey, and to agree next steps in the C20 policy consultation and development process. The meeting approved the above four areas as the basis for forming the working groups with the suggestion for inclusion of other issues such as access to energy, food security and financing for climate change under sustainability. Following publication of the report and C20 Priorities for 2015, thematic working groups will be convened around each of the four issues on the agenda, and the working group members will be responsible from taking forward the recommendations coming from the meeting in February. The responsibility of these working groups, which will be led by one national and one international chair, will be to develop policy positions and recommendations. This will be facilitated through a participatory process of consultation and development, designed to produce positions reflecting the views of a diverse range of civil society organisations from around the world. These processes will also form the basis of the C20's ongoing advocacy work throughout the 2015 G20.

## Annex 1: Commentary

### GOVERNANCE: Anti-corruption and tax justice

Anti corruption and transparency has been on the civil society agenda since 2008, with an increasingly prominent focus on the issue following the formation of the G20 Anti-Corruption Working Group (ACWG) in Toronto in 2010. Civil society's anti-corruption agenda includes transparency in extractive industries, beneficial ownership, bribery, and integrity in public and private sectors. As can also be seen from establishment of the ACWG, anti-corruption is an important agenda for G20 governments as well. The approval of a new plan of action for the period 2015-2016, and the pledge to address issues such as beneficial ownership, bribery, high-risk sectors such as extractive industries, public and private sector transparency and integrity are testament to the importance attached by the G20 to the anti-corruption agenda and its link to sustainable and equitable growth.<sup>1</sup>

Turkey's 2015 G20 presidency is focused on implementation of previous G20 commitments, amongst other things. In relation to anti-corruption, the presidency commits to close monitoring of the ACWG's 2015-16 action plan, with specific importance attached to tackling corruption in the public and private sector. Civil society organisations (CSOs) increasing attention to the anti-corruption agenda is reflected in its position as the highest priority for respondents around the world, reinforcing the place anti-corruption and transparency will take on the C20's agenda this year. Over the years, CSOs have developed a robust working relationship with the G20 ACWG, which looks set to continue in 2015.

Tax justice also ranked amongst the top three priority issues for civil society around the world in this survey. Overall, it was the third most important priority, receiving 52% of the total vote. As with the issue of anti-corruption, tax justice and transparency has been a high priority for civil society since 2008, emerging as a more significant sub-theme at the Cannes summit in 2011. Civil society organisations have worked across a range of issues when it comes to the tax agenda, from advocating for a financial transaction tax, promotion of progressive taxation systems, calls for tougher action on tax havens, promotion of automatic exchange of information and country-by-country reporting, and developing countries participation in the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) process.

The 2014 G20 committed to finalising the work on G20/OECD BEPS Action Plan to modernise tax rules in 2015, and agreed on a number of deliverables for the coming year.<sup>2</sup> The Turkish presidency's G20 priorities reiterated this commitment. Moreover, it recommitted to enhancing the inclusiveness of the international tax system, and pledged to enhance efforts to incorporate developing country perspectives on these issues.<sup>3</sup>

### INCLUSIVE GROWTH: Basic social services and employment, including (SMEs)

Basic social services consistently ranked amongst the top two priorities for civil society around the world, with 63% of the overall vote, showing strong concern for basic social services such as education and health care. Employment, including small and medium enterprises, both in general (51%) and with focus on women's employment (38%), ranked highly across countries. Historically, both issues have been high priorities for civil society, with calls for increased investment in comprehensive basic social services and social protection floors apparent since 2009. Similarly, employment was a high priority for civil society in the immediate aftermath of the 2007/08 economic crisis, and increasing links between basic services and

<sup>1</sup> <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2015-TURKEY-G-20-PRESIDENCY-FINAL.pdf>

<sup>2</sup> [https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/brisbane\\_g20\\_leaders\\_summit\\_communique1.pdf](https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/brisbane_g20_leaders_summit_communique1.pdf)

<sup>3</sup> <https://g20.org/wp-content/uploads/2014/12/2015-TURKEY-G-20-PRESIDENCY-FINAL.pdf>

employment were regularly made by civil society organisations. At the 2014 G20, leaders recommitted to do more to address unemployment, increase participation and create quality jobs, with a particular focus on reducing youth unemployment. Although links to education, training and apprenticeships are made, there was little association between basic services and employment levels. The high priority accorded to these issues by civil society indicates a close interrelationship between them. In the absence of a minimum investment in human capital, the G20's ambitious growth plans may not deliver. The call of survey participants for the C20 to focus on this salient issue is consistent with the increasingly widespread acknowledgement amongst many national and international institutions of the need to address inequalities in order to achieve robust, sustainable and equitable growth. This is reflected in the proliferation of discussions on economic governance models that can help achieve strong and sustainable growth that is also distributed equitably.

### **GENDER EQUALITY: Women's access to social protection and women's employment, including SMEs**

In 2014, G20 leaders made a headline commitment to reduce the gap in employment participation rates between men and women by 25%, "to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force, significantly increase global growth and reduce poverty and inequality" by 2025. This commitment has been reiterated by the Turkish presidency's statement of priorities, and there has also been a suggestion to establish a 'Women 20', most likely as a sub-theme under one of the existing engagement groups. As noted earlier, the C20 Turkey steering committee consciously included gender as a separate thematic area for consultation, in addition to the thematic areas adapted to Turkey's 2015 G20 presidency priorities. This stems from our belief that gender inequality needs to be addressed both as a standalone issue as well as an issue that is mainstreamed across thematic areas in order to achieve progress in closing the persistent economic, social and political gender gap in G20 countries and beyond. The C20 has sought – and will continue to seek – to develop specific gender analysis to support the mainstreaming of gender through the C20's work in 2015. Such an approach is reinforced by the high priority accorded to gender issues by respondents around the world. Women's access to social protection (41%) and women's employment, including SMEs (38%) emerged as top priority issues for civil society organisations across countries in the gender thematic area. These priorities will provide valuable entry points for the promotion of a comprehensive approach to addressing gender inequality through G20 actions.

### **SUSTAINABILITY: renewable energy**

2015 is set to be a crucial year for sustainability, with the post-2015 development framework (Sustainable Development Goals) expected to be adopted at the UN Summit in September and a new international climate change treaty expected to be concluded at the United Nations Climate Change Conference/ COP21 (the 21<sup>st</sup> conference of Parties to the 1992 UN Framework Convention on Climate Change), taking place in Paris in December. Unsurprisingly, issues relating to sustainability polled strongly in the C20's survey. Of the sub-issues under the sustainability theme, renewable energy received the highest number of votes across the world with 44% of the vote, polling in the top 4 issues in Turkey, and the top 5 globally. With many seeing the G20 heads of state meeting in Antalya in November as a critical juncture between the UN sustainable development summit and the UN COP21 in Paris, and with the Turkish presidency placing strong emphasis on both renewable energy and climate finance in the official agenda, there is a clear opportunity to make headway in this area.