

Initial Recommendations from the C-20 Sustainability Working Group – v.3

1- Sustainable Energy Infrastructure, Renewable Energy and Technology

Transfer: G20 countries should be responsive to “bottom-up” demand for infrastructure in the context of locally- and nationally-owned strategies. The G20 should make sure that new waves of infrastructure development focus on renewable energy and energy efficiency so that climate mitigation targets could be met, and lock-in of unsustainable infrastructure is avoided. The G20, and particularly the industrialized countries within the G20, must show leadership in providing adequate public finance and technologies for scaling up renewable energy in developing economies. The G20 should also work to put in place a framework that fosters technology cooperation and collaboration between countries for dissemination of low carbon and climate friendly technologies. Towards this end, G20 should initiate the foundation of a network of Climate Technology Development Diffusion Centres globally.

2- Energy Access: G20 needs to take a leadership role in supporting clean energy access for all, including distributed renewable energy, which is the most cost-effective way to provide many of the world’s poorest with first-time access to electricity. G20 should also support smart grid infrastructure and hybrid options, to ensure 24 x 7, provision of clean, affordable and reliable energy for all.

3- Climate Finance and Fossil Fuel Subsidies: G20 should advocate the employment of new and innovative sources of finance including –but not limited to– the following: (i) a Financial Transaction Tax, (ii) revenues generated from International Aviation, (iii) Maritime Transport through carbon pricing, (iv) a global fossil fuel extraction levy. In addition, building on the commitment originally made in Pittsburgh in 2009, G20 countries should commit to completely phasing out fossil fuel subsidies by 2020. In order to do this, G20 should call for an immediate end to government support (including bilateral and multilateral finance) for fossil fuel exploration and adoption of a strict timeline for the phase-out of remaining fossil fuel subsidies for production and consumption, with country-specified measurable outcomes, and a commitment to greater transparency in reporting on fossil fuel subsidy expenditure.