

G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance 2016 Beijing communiqué

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20YEA) is a collective of organizations across the jurisdictions of the G20 that promote youth entrepreneurship as a driver of economic renewal, job creation, innovation and social change. Alliance members represent more than 500,000 young entrepreneurs. Each year, the G20YEA brings together hundreds of the world's top young entrepreneurs to share their ideas with the B20 and G20 leaders to catalyze global change.

The 2016 G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance Beijing Summit built upon the 2015 G20 Antalya leaders' pledge to encourage entrepreneurship and address the global challenge of youth unemployment. SMEs and entrepreneurs are the main job creators in the G20 economies, employing more than two-thirds of the private sector workforce and providing more than 80 percent of net job growth.

The legitimacy of our recommendations is based upon the credibility and input of hundreds of young entrepreneurs from all G20 countries who gathered in Beijing from September 8th to 10th, 2016. It is also the product of in-depth research on the entrepreneurial ecosystem in G20 countries that our members have conducted jointly over the past several years with our knowledge partners Accenture, EY and the G20/G8 Research Group.

The G20YEA communiqué is a call to action for G20 governments to focus upon entrepreneurship, innovation and entrepreneurial education to address job creation and youth employment. This communiqué is aligned with the priorities of various working groups in the B20 process (namely SME Development and Employment) and provides the following ten actionable recommendations for governments to foster a culture of supportive entrepreneurship, innovation and to support young entrepreneurs.

Acquiring entrepreneurial skills through education

1. Make entrepreneurship education compulsory for all learners in primary and secondary levels. We call upon G20 governments to increase funding for entrepreneurship education and support the teaching of entrepreneurial skills, including digital competencies, STEM education, venture creation and leadership. The education systems in all G20 countries should also encourage team-based, action-oriented agility learning as well as creativity among students.

2. Encourage and support the creation of university-based incubators and accelerators in partnership with the private sector, institutions and foundations.

University students in G20 countries should have the opportunity to start businesses during their studies with the support of and resources from their institution. We call upon G20 governments to increase by 50% in five years the number of university students involved in entrepreneurship and to increase their

R&D investment/collaboration with entrepreneurs by 50% to complement formal entrepreneurship education.

Starting and scaling a business

3. Drive the development of angel networks and alternative innovative funding platforms for young entrepreneurs through targeted incentives.

Access to funding plays a critical role in the success of early-stage businesses. This is particularly noticeable for female entrepreneurs and social entrepreneurs. We call upon G20 governments to put incentives in place for incubators and accelerators to support early stage ventures through capital & mentorship, to ensure that start-ups have access to strong and vibrant angel networks and funding platforms, backed by wider support and mentorship in their countries. G20 countries should ensure clear and strategic approaches to regulation for fostering innovation in FinTech/alternative platforms and facilitate the development of non-banking finance, including equity finance.

4. Implement structural and legal reforms to promote entrepreneurship by reducing costs, bureaucracy, business disruption, and legal gaps.

Unnecessary bureaucracy and the related barriers of excess costs, business disruption, and legal gaps continue to inhibit entrepreneurs across the G20. Regulatory obstacles, such as the need to purchase multiple permits or licenses (and similar barriers to entry) deter entrepreneurs from starting businesses. We call upon G20 governments to set a “5/20” target whereby entrepreneurs in every G20 country should, by 2020, be able to register a business in no more than five days. We also call upon governments to define guidelines on clear governance/regulation regarding IP protection of digital assets for SMEs and entrepreneurs, data privacy and security including usage, data rights and quality.

5. Enable SMEs to scale through fiscal incentives for scale-ups and its investors.

After the start-up phase, SMEs need support in order to grow and create jobs. Cash flow is crucial during this phase. We call upon G20 countries to have a stable fiscal system and financial incentives that encourages and supports SMEs as they scale up their operations. We also call upon governments to focus on reducing barriers/driving incentives for cross-border access to capital in the G20 so that entrepreneurs can easily access support to scale their businesses.

Going global

6. Implement a policy to assist young entrepreneurs to trade with others countries.

Technology has allowed even smaller entrepreneur-led businesses to expand into global markets, which can be a powerful driver of growth. We call upon G20 governments to adopt policies and incentives that support young entrepreneurs as they assess and expand into external markets. We encourage G20 countries to implement measures such as inclusion of young entrepreneurs in trade missions, training of diplomats and trade commissioners in the reality of young entrepreneurs and creation of hub of co-working and incubator services for early-stage exporters in diplomatic missions (trade offices, embassies and consulates).

7. Establish an electronic World Trade Platform (e-WTP) to simplify regulations and harmonization of customs barriers and tariffs to encourage global e-commerce.

We call upon G20 countries to encourage a public-private dialogue around eWTP to improve the global business environment for e-commerce, to boost the development of e-trade infrastructure and the adoption of best practices through the support of cross border e-commerce hubs, and ensure that government procurement processes are made more open to small businesses owned by young entrepreneurs.

8. Establish a G20 Entrepreneur Visa to provide multilateral long-term visa and fast-track clearance for entrepreneurs within G20 countries.

As the digital economy and international trade continues to drive an increasing share of growth across the G20, we call upon G20 countries to promote the free flow of innovative talent across borders. We ask the G20 to set the year 2020 as a target for all G20 countries to have an entrepreneur visa program in place that facilitates mobility and job creation.

ICT Infrastructure development

9. Ensure access to reliable/low cost high-speed digital infrastructure for start-ups and scale-up businesses.

The global digital economy grows on the foundation of strong information and communications technology (ICT) infrastructure. To take advantage of the opportunities of digital disruption, young entrepreneurs need seamless connectivity with peers, industry and research. Robust ICT infrastructure lays the groundwork for developing technologies and allows entrepreneurs to integrate digital platforms into their business models. We call upon the G20 to set as a goal that all G20 countries will have a 5G network in place by 2022.

Innovation main driver of the digital economy

10. Build an innovation dialogue among G20 countries.

In this age of artificial intelligence, big data and cyber security, we call upon G20 governments to cooperate with business to build an open platform for all G20 countries to collaborate in these key areas. This platform could promote the freer flow of ideas across borders and help innovative entrepreneurs to create global networks across the G20 countries. This dialogue should highlight the importance of industry collaboration and the role for sound governance to harmonize data privacy and data security legislation.

On behalf of millions of young entrepreneurs in G20 countries, we submit these recommendations in the spirit of partnership and in a firm belief that encouraging entrepreneurship across our societies will lead to dynamism, growth and the economic and social renewal of our planet. Specifically, we believe immediate commitments in the areas of education, digital innovation, alternative funding, startup/scale-up and export stages, as spelled out in this communiqué, can send a powerful message to those within our societies who can lead this effort – our young entrepreneurs.