Introduction and Summary

The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to realize a world 'that leaves no one behind' by 2030. This is an ambitious agenda, but provides a powerful aspiration for building a better future for all through global partnerships.

Four years have already passed since the adoption of the SDGs by all 193 United Nations (UN) member states in September 2015. However, as the existing studies indicate, not a single country is on track to achieve all of the SDGs by 2030. Bold and transformative steps are urgently needed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by taking a human-centered approach that contributes to building a sustainable health system for all, and promotes education in development and women's economic empowerment (WEE). It is also critically important to scale up business impact on inclusive and sustainable development, and establish a global framework for mobilizing and catalyzing capital and facilitating technology cooperation, based on the principles of access, equity, and inclusion, for developing countries. These are the central messages of our policy recommendations, emerging from the collaborative work of the T20 Japan Task Force on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

2019 is a highly important year for Japan. The country hosts both the Group of Twenty (G20) Osaka Summit and the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7). There will also be the High-level Political Forum on Sustainable Development (HLPF) in September 2019, under the auspices of the United Nations General Assembly (the so-called "UN SDG Summit"), to follow-up and review the progress of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Since the SDGs were adopted in 2015, G20 has sought effective means of implementing the 17 goals using various frameworks and fora, as well as the G20 Development Working Group (DWG). These include

the G20 and Low Income Developing Countries Framework (2015) and the 2015 Antalya Development Roadmap (2015), the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development (2016), the Hamburg Update of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda (2017), and the Buenos Aires Update of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda (2018). Currently, the G20 under Japanese Presidency in 2019 is working through the DWG to undertake the review of the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda.

In view of the vital importance of providing policy inputs to the progress of the SDGs at this critical juncture, a Task Force on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has been established within T20. In alignment with the Japanese government's priorities for its G20 Presidency and considering the impact of the achievements of the recent G20 Summits on the 2030 Agenda, we have chosen the following six topics to make policy recommendations for G20. We believe that these topics are critically important for advancing SDG implementation:

- Universal Health Coverage (UHC);
- Education in development;
- Sustainable finance for development;
- The role of the private sector in achieving the SDGs;
- Technology cooperation; and
- Gender.

We consider these topics a balanced mix, and highly relevant in the light of: (i) giving special attention to "human security" and the human-centered approach, as well as the areas where Japan has accumulated knowledge and expertise (i.e., universal health coverage, and education in development); (ii) combining sector-specific topics with cross-cutting topics (i.e., sustainable finance, the role of the private sector, technology cooperation, gender); (iii) maintaining the continuity of the past T20 discussions, while addressing new topics (i.e., universal health coverage, the role of the private sector, technology cooperation); and (iv) ensuring complementarity with the other Task

Forces such as Climate Change and Environment, the Future of Work and Education for the Digital Age, and the Economic Effects of Infrastructure and its Financing.

A total of eleven Policy Briefs have been formulated covering these six areas, as compiled in this book. The direction of the six topics is summarized as follows (see the Annex for key recommendations).

In <u>health</u>, our Task Force has focused on UHC. This is the first time that T20 has discussed this as the major topic. Health has been discussed at the G20 Summit since 2017, and during the last two years the main focus was on the preparedness and response to health crises (such as the Ebola outbreak and antimicrobial resistance (AMR)) and health systems strengthening.. This year, our Policy Brief addresses the role of G20 in building sustainable health systems for all, and deliberates on the next steps toward a new globalism for UHC. In doing so, we have given due consideration to the discussions at the Health Working Group (Sherpa Track) and the Finance Track.

<u>Education</u> has been discussed intensively at past T20s, and recent years have seen growing interest in the topic of the Future of Work and Education for the Digital Age (which is closely related to the 4th industrial revolution). While this topic continues to be discussed at the other Task Force (Task Force 7), we have highlighted education in development as an enabler to achieve the SDGs. Five Policy Briefs have been compiled, which call for transforming education system to provide all children with quality education. They address non-cognitive "socioemotional skills," early childhood development/ education and care (ECD/ECEC), science, technology, engineering and mathematics (STEM), girl's education, professional development, and so on.

On <u>finance and governance</u>, developing countries face challenges in using cross-border capital flows to fund investments in sustainable development. International financial institutions have a key role to

play in minimizing risks to developing economies while ensuring more efficient allocation of public and private capital. This year, our Policy Brief recommends concrete measures how to drive capital at scale towards sustainable development, ensure improved allocation of development finance, and establish and encourage commitment to, funding approaches for global public goods.

The role of the private sector is a new topic at T20, and our Policy Brief addresses the need to redefine the purpose of business and how to scale up their impact on the SDGs. It analyzes the challenges which restrain corporates from making full-fledged contributions to SDG acceleration and provides specific policy recommendations. These include: (i) encouraging corporates to embed the SDGs into their core business strategies and operations; (ii) reshaping the economic system around the common good; (iii) creating a "sustainable ecosystem" for shaping a beneficial environment for all stakeholders; and (iv) upgrading the enterprises and policy/regulatory capabilities of developing countries to maximize the potential benefits of their participation in Global Value Chains.

Technology cooperation is also a new topic. Global technology regimes and international organizations have played a significant role in facilitating Science, Technology and Innovation (STI) cooperation to cater to diverse needs in the areas of development and sustainability. Nevertheless, the existing technology transfer models remain inadequate to meet the needs of developing countries. Our Policy Brief examines the significance of Science and Technology (S&T) and availability of innovation-driven solutions, to address sustainability challenges. It also highlights the role of the G20 in supporting the best practices adopted for technology cooperation, building the technological and financial capacities of developing countries, and facilitating intellectual property regimes for fostering STI partnerships.

Gender is an important cross-cutting issue, and past T20 meetings discussed intensively the issue of gender economic equity by

organizing a dedicated Task Force. This year, two Policy Briefs have been produced within the T20 Japan SDGs Task Force, to highlight: (i) a gendered perspective of changing demographics and their implications for labor, financial and digital equity; and (ii) governance frameworks for promoting women's economic empowerment. The latter is new and focuses on the governance frameworks for the public and private sectors and their respective mechanisms for monitoring and measuring the impact of gender economic equity progress. In doing so, we have collaborated with the Women 20 (W20) to ensure alignment with the W20 areas of focus.

Tremendous efforts have been made across these six topics to share respective perspectives and promote mutual learning in the process of formulating the Policy Briefs. This has greatly enriched the activities of the Task Force on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development in T20 Japan 2019.

Lastly, 2019 marks the fourth year since the adoption of the SDGs by world leaders, and the UN SDG Summit will be held in September. This provides a very important opportunity to reinvigorate international commitment to the 2030 Agenda, to showcase areas of global progress, and to raise awareness of the importance of the SDGs globally. Given the significant impact the G20 countries could have on global economic and social progress, I sincerely hope that the policy recommendations formulated by our Task Force will serve as useful intellectual contributions to the G20 Osaka Summit, as well as to the subsequent policy fora including the UN SDG Summit.

Izumi Ohno
Director, JICA Research Institute
Lead Co-Chair of Task Force on
"The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development"

References

- Argentina G20 Presidency. 2018. *Buenos Aires Update: Moving Forward the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development*, November. http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2018/2018-buenosaires-update.html
- Bertelsmann Stiftung and Sustainable Development Solutions Network (SDSN). 2018. *SDG Index and Dashboards Report 2018: Global Responsibilities.* Brussels: Bertelsmann Stiftung.
- Kharas, Homi., McArthur, John W., and Rasmussen, Krista. 2018. "How Many People Will the World Leave Behind: Assessing Current Trajectories on the Sutainable Development Goals." *Global Economy & Development Working Paper 123*, September, Brookings.
- Ohno, Izumi. 2019. Think 20 Japan 2019: The "Japan SDGs Model" and the Task Force on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. *Global Solutions* 4: 104-113.
- United Nations (UN). 2015. *Transforming Our World: the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development.* New York: United Nations.

Annex

Key Recommendations, Specific Actions, and Policy Briefs
(Task Force 1: The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development)[1]

Summary of Challenge / Goal
The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) aim to realize a world 'that leaves no one behind' by 2030. Bold and transformative steps are urgently needed to accelerate the implementation of the 2030 Agenda by taking a human-centered approach that contributes to building a sustainable health system for all, and promotes education in development and women's economic empowerment (WEE). It is also critically important to scale up business impact on inclusive and sustainable development, and establish a global framework for mobilizing and catalyzing capital and facilitating technology cooperation, based on the principles of access, equity, and inclusion for developing countries.
Key Recommendation 1: Lead tractable changes and global solidarity towards Universal Health Coverage (UHC).
Specific Actions
• Re-orient domestic financing and development assistance to strengthen primary health care systems. • Establish a reliable information system on migrants to ensure parity of health and social security benefits between migrant and local workers. • Share country experiences of innovative financing successes. • Support the establishment of reliable domestic financing mechanisms for self-sufficiency, and ensure that resources are used for cost-effective best buys. • Establish a G20 working group on harnessing and regulating health technologies at the global level. • Establish a globally-shared, locally-contextualized mechanism of technical support for UHC. • Harmonize health development assistance to avoid duplication and fill gaps.
Referenced Policy Brief

---

[1] This is an input from "The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development" Task Force to the T20 Communique. The Communique was compiled from this input.

- Gerald Bloom, Yasushi Katsuma, Krishna D Rao, Saeda Makimoto, Gabriel Leung, "Deliberate next steps toward a new globalism for Universal Health Coverage (UHC)."

Key Recommendation 2: Transform education system to provide all children with quality education, leaving no one behind.

Specific Actions

- Share good practices among G20 countries and align policy interventions with the local context in which educational transformations take place, and review and reform curricula across all levels of education to align these with all 17 SDGs.
- Prioritize the promotion of research and practice in education systems that foster non-cognitive "socioemotional skills" to transform traditional schooling systems.
- Strengthen G20-level commitment to ensuring access to locally and culturally appropriate early childhood development, education and care (ECD/ECEC) of high quality for all children from birth, and forge international consensus on government responsibility for developing, resourcing, and governing a "whole-systems" approach to ECD/ECEC policies.
- Establish baseline data and targeted interventions to benefit the most marginalized girls and boys to achieve gender equality in education.
- Agree on immediate policy measures within G20 countries to promote STEM education particularly in basic level mathematics and science, and change the nature of STEM education in a way that cultivates the curiosity and motivation of children.

Referenced Policy Briefs

- Shinichiro Tanaka, Shimpei Taguchi, Kazuhiro Yoshida, Alejandra Cardini, Nobuko Kayashima, Hiromichi Morishita, "Transforming Education towards Equitable Quality Education to Achieve the SDGs."
- Mathias Urban, Alejandra Cardini, Jennifer Guevara, Lynette Okengo, Rita Flórez Romero, "Early Childhood Development Education and Care: The Future is What We Build Today."
- Natasha Ridge, Susan Kippels, Alejandra Cardini, Joannes Paulus Yimbesalu, "Developing National Agendas in Order to Achieve Gender Equality in Education (SDG 4)."
- David Istance, Anthony Mackay, Rebecca Winthrop, "Measuring Transformational Pedagogies Across G20 Countries to Achieve Breakthrough Learning: The Case for Collaboration."
- Javier González D., Dante Castillo C., Claudia Costin, Alejandra Cardini, "Teacher Professional Skills: Key Strategies to Advance in Better Learning Opportunities in Latin America."

Key Recommendation 3: Drive capital at scale towards sustainable development, ensuring improved allocation of development finance.

Specific Actions

- Share the good experiences derived from expanding sustainable finance, especially by large institutional investors and national and international development banks in G20 member countries, and pursue actions to promote private financing for social good.
- Support developing countries in the creation of sector-specific platforms to generate coherent and high-quality project proposals linked to national development plans, in partnership with MDBs and UN agencies.
- Take a systematic approach to aid replenishment negotiations (expected in 2019/2020) based on a set of core principles, and also encourage the greater use of innovative finance mechanisms.

Referenced Policy Brief

- Homi Kharas, Sachin Chaturvedi, Mustafizur Rahman, Imme Scholz, "Sustainable Financing for Development."

Key Recommendation 4: Redefine the purpose of business and create a "sustainable ecosystem" for shaping beneficial environments for all stakeholders, while giving attention to the industrial and social upgrading of developing countries.

Specific Actions

- Urge the private sector to embed sustainability into their core business strategies and operations and link corporate reporting to the SDGs by using common framework and standards. Also, promote joint business actions for social good by utilizing major international events as showcases.
- Reshape the economic system around a common purpose by promoting ESG investment, as well as sustainable procurement in the public sector.
- Promote "Quality FDI" to developing countries and support their industrial and social upgrading so that they can benefit from Global Value Chain participation and avoid the risk of inappropriate supply chain management by FDI.

Referenced Policy Brief

- Izumi Ohno, Kenichi Konya, Hiroaki Shiga, Franklin Murillo, Estefania Charvet, "Scaling Up Business Impact on the SDGs."

Key Recommendation 5: Create alternative mechanisms for STI cooperation, building the technological and financial capabilities of developing countries.

Specific Actions

- Establish a comprehensive technology facilitation mechanism, including technology banks to facilitate and incentivize technology transfer to developing countries and LDCs.
- Develop a global action plan to promote open access to data and S&T information and to adopt new regulation models of innovation for global public goods.
- Integrate STI cooperation into strategies for the achievement of the SDGs and promote good practices in this area among G20 countries.

Referenced Policy Brief

- Sachin Chaturvedi, Mustafizur Rahman, Krishna Ravi Srinivas, "Leveraging Science, Technology and Innovation for Implementing the 2030 Agenda."

Key Recommendation 6: Prioritize concrete actions that promote women's economic empowerment.

Specific Actions

- Remove systemic legal and social barriers in the labor market that disproportionately limit women's labor force participation and countries' potential to deal with the demographic transition, especially by adopting policies that recognize, reduce, redistribute and represent unpaid care and domestic work and by presenting mid-term reports on the 2014 Brisbane commitment on "25 by 25."
- Improve WEE data availability, analysis and quality in the public and private sectors, recognizing that data inputs are essential for quality policy design, benchmarking and measuring progress on implementation, and accountability.
- Mainstream gender in public policy making and require private and third sector entities to adopt and report on gendered policies and outcomes.

Referenced Policy Brief

- Florencia Caro Sachetti, Gala Díaz Langou, Fernando Filgueira, Margo Thomas, Sarah Gammage, Carolyn Currie, Margarita Beneke de Sanfeliú, Abigail Hunt, Reiko Hayashi, "A Gendered Perspective on Changing Demographics: Implications for Labour, Financial and Digital Equity."
- Margo Thomas, Eleanor Carey, Dinah Bennett, Jaclyn Berfond, Boris Branisa, Yolanda Gibb, Colette Henry, Eun Kyung Kim, Gala Díaz Langou, Karen Miller, Mari Miura, Nicola Patterson, Smita Premchander, Linda Scott, "Women's Economic Empowerment: Strengthening Public and Private Sector Impact through Accountability and Measurement."