

G20 Call to Action 2020

ACCELERATE SUSTAINABILITY AND INCLUSIVENESS

The COVID crisis is a wake-up call to accelerate the transition to a more sustainable and inclusive global economy and achieve the United Nations' SDGs. Business and Government both have a role to play and must rise to the occasion.

For Governments, this means, for example, an economy with opportunity, embracing diversity and access to education for all, and an economy that sustains our environment, delivering on crucial commitments.

For business, this means an integrated, multi-stakeholder approach to the way they operate and govern themselves with a focus on long-term value creation by incorporating integrated reporting principles.

FOCUS ON PUBLIC SECTOR TRANSPARENCY AND INTEGRITY

The COVID crisis has driven an enormous increase in public sector spending. Now more than ever, integrity and transparency in the public sector are central to the social contract between governments and citizens.

IFAC calls on the G20 to step up its efforts to deliver on the G20 Anti-Corruption and Anti-Money Laundering Action Plans.

Upholding integrity also takes a trusted global tax system and sound public financial management. It continues with credible public sector reporting that supports transparency and long-term sustainable decision-making. IFAC urges the G20 to adopt accrual accounting at all levels of government and International Public Sector Accounting Standards.

IFAC CALLS ON THE G20 TO STAY FOCUSED ON THE FUTURE IN THE GLOBAL COVID-19 RESPONSE.

The challenges raised by COVID-19 are unprecedented in the modern era; so too have been the responses from G20 governments. The short-term focus on the pandemic has been rightfully all encompassing. At the same time, we must not allow the immediate needs of the recovery to derail progress on other urgent global priorities. We are at an inflection point: staying focused on the future while responding to COVID-19 is critical to strong, sustainable economies and realizing the opportunities of the 21st century for all.

RESIST REGULATORY FRAGMENTATION

Regulatory fragmentation costs the global economy more than \$780 billion a year, and the cost is borne disproportionately by small- and medium-sized enterprises. We simply cannot afford so much waste.

IFAC calls for policymakers across the G20 to prioritize regulatory cooperation and harmonization so that all enterprises can thrive, and to enhance mechanisms for continuous and systematic cross-border dialogue between national regulators to improve consistency in international regulations and standards.

Regulations play a central role in connecting the economy to sustainability. We urge all stakeholders to agree on a global framework to non-financial reporting incorporating integrated reporting principles.

RECOMMIT TO GLOBAL COLLABORATION

The line between local and global problems continues to blur; we are in this together. And the challenges we face are all interconnected. Accordingly, global institutions for cooperation and crisis-management—both public and private sector—are more important than ever. These institutions must be agile: the next unprecedented crisis could be just round the corner.

While crises affect us all, their impacts are unequal. Multilateralism in support of *building back better* for those most in need is the foundation for future global resilience and a pathway towards creating a fairer and more prosperous world for all.

G20 leadership must commit to working together through global institutions to anticipate and mitigate the global problems of the 21st century.