

Youth Commission for Diplomacy and Collaboration

Y20 Australia 2014 Report

ABSTRACT

In this report, all activities of Youth Commission for Diplomacy and Collaboration (YCDC) related to the Y20 Australia 2014 Summit are noted and the 2014 Turkish delegation is introduced. The report also includes comprehensive information on Y20 Summits and the progress of YCDC. It has been written to inform legal authorities and partners and will also be shared with future delegates for continuous improvement.

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2 Introduction

Following the G20 Leaders' commitment to "pursue consistent and effective engagement with non-members, regional and international organizations including civil society", and based on the results of outreach activities undertaken by previous presidencies, the Australian Presidency of the G20 promoted an extensive outreach dialogue to enhance legitimacy and efficiency of the G20 process. In this regard different partners and their regional associations, international organizations, private sector, labor unions, youth, think tanks and academic institutions, non-governmental organizations and other actors of civil society were linked to G20 calendar. The proposals from all these groups were discussed and transmitted to the G20 decision-making level. The Australian Presidency of the G20 claimed that in 2014 the Outreach Strategy was developed with an objective to accumulate cross-fora synergy between different outreach groups, namely Think 20, Business 20, Labour 20, Civil 20 and Youth 20 [1].

Among these outreach groups, Youth 20 (Y20) distinguished itself with its unique and innovative approach. It played the role of being an international platform for dialogue between youth society and politicians. Young people's stances on the most pressing international issues were heard at a high, intergovernmental level. In the following sections introductory information about the history of Y20 events and the format of the summits are presented. The report also includes the role of YCDC and the effort spent for the 2014 summit in order to achieve the highest success for the Turkish delegation. After introducing the contribution of the Turkish delegation to the Y20 Summit 2014, an outlook for the future summits is also added to the report for continuous improvement.

3 Y20 Summit 2014

3.1 History

Started in 2010 as an initiative of voluntary non-governmental non-profit youth organizations and individuals, the Y20 summits, formerly known as G8 & G20 Youth Summits, bring together ascending leaders at the fringe of the G20 summits. The previous events were held in Canada, France, United States and Russia. With the accumulated experiences, each year a better event was organized than the previous one. The organization started to become recognized as the leading youth event in international diplomacy. In 2011, the event was organized under the patronage of Nicolas Sarkozy, the President of French Republic and French Presidency of the G20 (see Appendix). In 2012, the individuals in the network established The International Diplomatic Engagement Association (The IDEA), to reflect the growing desire of young leaders to build bridges beyond major annual summits. The mission was set as to unite young leaders from around the world, and to facilitate their involvement in, and impact on, global issues through open dialogue and engaging diplomacy. The IDEA also aimed to define the best practices for the Y20 events and ensured continuous progress.

In 2013, Y20 was organized by the Russian Federal Agency for Youth Affairs with the support of Presidential Executive Office, and in conjunction with The IDEA on June 18-21 in St. Petersburg. The Russian G20 Presidency collaborated with The IDEA, which has youth-led national groups in every member nation of the G20, and recommends to work with and support the Association and its' national organizations in their recruitment efforts for the Y20 Russia 2013. By holding the G20 outreach meetings under the auspices of the St. Petersburg International Economic Forum (SPIEF), added value could be gained. B20, C20 and Y20 participants could find the opportunity to interact and exchange information.

This year, 2014, Australia was in charge of hosting the G20 events. Following the outreach policies proposed by Russia in the previous year, different summits have been planned for the entire year. Among those, Y20 has been emphasized with its unique potential to reach G20's voices to next generations.

3.2 Format of the summit

The policy discussion process was started with a tool called Yammer. This tool was the main channel in which the Y20 delegates developed their policy recommendations prior to the Y20 Summit in Sydney, Australia. The Y20 Planning group created a 'network' on Yammer for all of the delegates, then subsequent networks for the three themes:

- Growth and Jobs Creation
- Global Citizenship and Mobility
- Sustainable Development.

which are selected in line with the G20 agenda.

Delegates were sent unique invites to join these networks via email. After accepting the invite and creating a profile on Yammer, the delegates were able to introduce themselves, ask questions to the Y20 Planning Group in the general network, and post their proposed recommendations and seek feedback in their topic groups. After the proposed recommendations were debated and compromises were made, it went for a vote to reduce the number of proposals via SurveyMonkey – a survey tool used for voting. The remaining recommendations were then posted on Yammer for further discussion then voted on to determine the final three recommendations which were then presented at the G20 Sherpa meeting on June 23-24. Moreover, the majority of the discussion and debate on the communique clauses were also carried out on Yammer in a similar fashion.

Y20 Summit Australia took place in Sydney, Australia in 12-15 July 2014 under the support of Australian Government. In order to reduce the effect of long travel hours for the delegates coming from all over the world, the Y20 Secretariat covered accommodation with one additional night which makes the total time span of the organization 5 days. All delegates' accommodation, food and transportation costs were covered, and access to the venue was provided.

General content management of the summit had two parts. First, plenary sessions during the day with the attendance of all delegates and second, sub-committee meetings for each topic to discuss the clauses of final communique. For every topic there were sub-committees consist of assigned delegates from all delegations and 1 or 2 moderator from planning team.

Plenary sessions were mostly panels with participation of important figures from government, business, NGOs and different organizations. At the end of each session there were Q/A sessions where delegates could ask questions to panelists. As for sub-committee meetings, they were like debates where owners of a clause try to convince other delegates to vote in favor of their clause and ensure the inclusion of it in the final communique.

Y20 Summit's participants (5 delegates from each G20 and invited country) came to a joint position on the issues of the G20 agenda and developed a Communique presented to the G20. Y20 Summit's agenda was formed by the host organizing committee. Summit's work process included panels with experts and group discussions of the Summit's agenda. Group work results were presented to all the participants who voted for the Communique's adoption.

Social Events

As Y20 is also considered and designed as a social event for potential young leaders to get to know each other and expand their networks, there were at least 1-2 social events ever day varying from "Aboriginal dances" to "Luna Park visit". Such events were generally planned for evenings after the plenary sessions and sub-committee meetings except the first day Saturday, 12th July. First day of the summit was entirely

reserved for a boat trip and social-cultural activities to break the ice between delegates and to make them meet each other.

3.3 Representation of Turkey in Y20

Before 2012, there was no institutional body responsible for nominating Turkish delegates to the international youth organizations on a regular basis. Due to this absence, an awareness could not be built among the Turkish youth and Turkey was underrepresented in early summits. After the Summit in Washington D.C., a group of individuals (see 4.2) from Turkey, also former participants in Y20 events, came together voluntarily to initiate a new Non-Profit Organization (NPO), the Youth Commission for Diplomacy and Collaboration (YCDC) (see 4.1).

As a newly founded NPO, the first task of YCDC was to select Turkish delegates for the Y20 Summit Russia 2013. In the beginning, three important targets were set in order to ensure the successful selection process of young qualified Turks who would be participating in the summits. First, an access to a wide pool of qualified candidates was needed so that the most appropriate delegates would represent the Turkish youth at the summits. To this end, YCDC contacted top-tier Turkish universities and informed university students via email and social networks about the recruitment process, requirements and deadlines. As a result, after the first elimination of resumes, in a short period of time a candidate pool consisting of almost 50 young Turks for 5 vacancies was achieved. The recruitment process was finalized after the potential delegates were interviewed.

After the selection process (see 3.4), a training program was aimed for delegates to prepare them for negotiations. For this purpose, YCDC contacted the head of the G20 department at the Turkish Treasury. YCDC was honored by Mr. Omer Bayar with a presentation regarding Turkey's foreign and economic policies. Additional talks were given by previous delegates to the rest of the delegation regarding the debating and networking skills.

In 2013, YCDC continued to pursue additional government endorsement/funding and reached out to other networking groups. After a meeting with the Ambassador (Turkish Permanent Representative to the OECD), YCDC was introduced to the Turkish Sherpa Office, which is under the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and YCDC informed that it is ready to follow the advices from the government units.

With its accumulated experience and extended network, YCDC is ready to taking the responsibility of further representing Turkey in the Y20. YCDC is well aware of the fact that the ultimate success can be achieved by the harmony of its commitment and the help of government units.

3.4 Turkish delegation

The Turkish delegation participated in Y20 Australia 2014 is introduced below.

Serra Diptas (head of delegation)

Serra is studying International Studies as a senior student at Sabanci University, also she is doing her minor degree in Art Theory and Criticism. In addition she is a teaching assistant at Sabanci University and she is the president of the IMM Youth Assembly Foreign Affairs Commission. Under the assembly she organized international conferences like Turk Arab Youth Congress. She worked in Ministry of European Affairs and Istanbul Policy Center as an intern. She was a research assistant for the EU FP7 Transworld Project to Prof. Meltem Muftuler Bac. She was graduated from Winter School of the Ministry of Foreign Affairs and she took undergraduate courses from The London School of Economics. Besides these studies and works, she travelled to many countries like USA, UK, Qatar and almost all Europe. She likes to travel, riding horse, playing tennis and sailing.

Alperen Adikti

Alperen is a consultant at McKinsey & Company since 2013. He holds a B.A from Boğaziçi University. Prior to joining McKinsey he has worked at several asset management (Black River Asset Management, AK Asset Management) and technology companies (IBM, Microsoft). During his education he participated in researches at Ozyegin University Center for Computational Finance focusing on algorithmic trading and led Bogazici University CFA Research Challenge team. He speaks Turkish, English and Spanish.

Murat Onem

Murat holds a bachelor's degree in Business Administration from Koc University. He has also attended studies of International Political Economy and International Business Strategy in the London School of Economics. He started his professional career in the fields of business development and finance in an international company. He had the opportunity to work in several countries like Germany, France and China. In the recent years, he is mainly focused on standardization in global economies. Due to his business, he has close relationships with the Turkish Standards Institution and other local international standardization bodies. He is also involved in many social activities and member of several NGO committees.

Murat Duru

Murat is currently pursuing a B.S. in Mechanical Engineering (ME) and a Minor in Applied Physics at New Jersey Institute of Technology (NJIT). He also works as a Teaching Assistant for the Department of Physics (DoP), and Student Supervisor for the Instructional Technology and Media Services of NJIT. He was awarded the Provost's Undergraduate Summer Research Fellowship as a freshman and continued his research with the support of the DoP and Newark College of Engineering (NCE), where he submitted his first invention disclosure. Recently elected as the Vice President of Administration, he previously served as the ME, then NCE Representative in the Student Senate. As a sophomore, he became the only intern at Verizon Communications (VC) to have level 1 manager status in the NY region; he will be going back to VC with the goal of simplifying policies and processes. He is fluent in Karachay, Turkish, and English.

Yilmaz Bozkurt, (observer)

Yilmaz has a B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from Middle East Technical University and continuing for a M.A. in Economics in Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University. He has been working as a Foreign Trade Specialist in Turkish Ministry of Economy for five years and he is a member of the TURQUALITY® Program Management Team. Yilmaz provides consulting for top tier Turkish corporations. As the project coordinator of the TURQUALITY® Executive Development Program he has close relationships within the business sector. He is also involved in many activities and committees related to fashion and industrial design societies with regard to branding and corporate management. With his ambitious personality, Yilmaz plans to pursue his goal of increasing global awareness of corporate social responsibility in order to foster a sustainable environment and thriving future.

3.5 Turkey as Troika member

The G-20 operates without a permanent secretariat or staff. The group's chair rotates annually among the members and is selected from a different regional grouping of countries. The chair is part of a revolving three-member management group of past, present and future chairs, referred to as the "Troika". The incumbent chair establishes a temporary secretariat for the duration of its term, which coordinates the group's work and organizes its meetings. The role of the Troika is to ensure continuity in the G-20's work and management across host years. The current chair of the G-20 is Turkey; the chair was handed over from Australia after the 2014 G-20 Summit. The 2015 Summit will be presided by Turkey.

Turkey joined the troika on December 1, 2013 as it will be the chair of the G20 in 2015. Deputy Prime Minister Ali Babacan said in a written statement that the G20 troika, made up of the current, immediate past and future host countries, helps the chair to manage the work agenda to ensure continuity, and is responsible for bringing together the G20's agenda in consultation with other members and in response to developments in the global economy.

Deputy Prime Minister said further that one of the most important global positions to be assumed by Turkey so far, G20 Temporary Presidency and Troika membership will help promote Turkey's deep rooted transformation in the global arena. Every year in the Y20 closing ceremony, troika countries are presenting the communique of the year, this year Russia, Turkey and Australia presented the communique which has three different policy topics. Serra Diptas, head delegate of Turkey represented Global Citizenship and Mobility Committee and made a speech for the entire audience.

3.6 Evaluation of the Turkish delegation's performance

The Turkish delegation was one of the most successful team in Y20 Summit 2014 as the team was all mainly graduate students and well-versed in English. 2 of delegates were native English speaker and the other 3 were PhD candidates with over an average of 5 years of living-abroad experience. The importance of proficiency in English played out exactly as it was expected in the actual discussions. Fluency impacted whether delegates were able to exert their presence and have others listen and respond to their ideas.

The Turkish delegation's participation was expressed in pushing forward the sustainability crux of each agenda on the social policy optimization subtopic and promoting youth unemployment's importance and facilitating discussion by inviting other countries to share their examples on education reform, industry training and poverty alleviation. On the financial agenda, the Turkish delegation was vocal about the reform of the executive board in IMF.

Challenges encountered

The draft agenda, which the host delegation had compiled and condensed from two-months of online negotiations, failed to successfully reflect previously agreed topics. With a time-pressure of 4 hours and general discontent with the choice of topics, the debate stagnated on the preliminary question of deciding what the Turkish delegates wanted to communicate. As a result of this initial discrepancy (between what was discussed on the online negotiations and the draft awaiting approval at the tables), at times the discussion turned into separate monologues with each delegate straying from the core principles in an effort to promote either personal or country interests that they felt were neglected. This could be easily fixed in the future through an online platform that is more conducive to interaction and facilitating discussion.

Another difficulty arose out of the lack of Mutual Exclusivity of the topics. Especially for the Social Policy Optimization topic, it became a challenge for the Turkish delegation to re-direct the conversation back on track when the discussions was deviated into the other subtopics that could be included under the umbrella of core topic. Also given the diversity of talent as well as the disparities between all delegates' levels of expertise some issues that required more technical discussions could not take place.

To reflect the impressions of Turkish delegation, a short article written by Murat Onem is attached to this report (see Appendix).

4 YCDC

4.1 Mission and vision

YCDC aims to serve as a medium for young people to take part in civil society by bringing them together to discuss domestic and international issues. YCDC hopes to foster and voice the youth's ideas and opinions through various forums and ultimately make a positive contribution to society.

YCDC wants young Turks to host and be represented at various domestic and international forums, summits, contests etc. We want to provide information on these types of events, firstly, to ensure the youth are represented and secondly, because they are important for developing well-rounded young people [2].

4.2 Team

Emre Cenker (*Chairman*)

After completing his B.Sc. in Mechanical Engineering at Koç University cum laude and with merit scholarship, Emre Cenker moved to Germany to pursue his master with full funding support of DAAD-TEV and RWTH International Academy. He obtained an M.Sc. in Automotive Systems Engineering at RWTH Aachen. Subsequently he ran an automotive supply company in Germany as the authorized executive officer with full P/L responsibility. Completing a year in business sphere, Emre turned back to his academic studies focusing on clean combustion and laser physics with a joint doctoral program in Paris funded and hosted by IFP Energies nouvelles. The academic supervisors in this joint PhD program were École Centrale Paris and University of Duisburg-Essen. Since April 2014, Emre has been working as a postdoctoral research fellow at King Abdullah University of Science and Technology in Saudi Arabia.

Yilmaz Bozkurt (*Deputy Chairman*)

Yilmaz has a B.Sc. in Industrial Engineering from Middle East Technical University and continuing for a M.A. in Economics in Faculty of Political Science, Ankara University. He has been working as a Foreign Trade Specialist in Turkish Ministry of Economy for three years and he is a member of the TURQUALITY® Program Management Team. Yilmaz provides consulting for top tier Turkish corporations. As the project coordinator of the TURQUALITY® Executive Development Program he has close relationships within the business sector. He is also involved in many activities and committees related to fashion and industrial design societies with regard to branding and corporate management. With his ambitious personality, Yilmaz plans to pursue his goal of increasing global awareness of corporate social responsibility in order to foster a sustainable environment and thriving future.

Serpil Meto (*Coordinator*)

Serpil is a foreign trade specialist at the Ministry of Economy, working on trade remedy proceedings of Turkey. She evaluates the competitive performance of domestic firms and industries compared to related foreign industries'. Beside her daily duties, she also represents Turkey in bi-annual WTO Safeguards Committee meetings in Geneva. She is equipped with the knowledge of international law, trade and competition. Before the Ministry, she worked for the State Supply Office (SSO) of Turkey, the central purchasing body of Turkey. She was responsible for approving vendors' applications to sign sales contracts with Turkish State for equipment and supplies. Serpil has a B.Sc. Degree in Business Administration from Hacettepe University.

5 Conclusion & Outlook

2014 was the second year for Turkish youth where an institutional body was responsible for nominating Turkish delegates. Having the experience from the previous summit and observing the similar NGOs, the YCDC members could prepare an appropriate strategy. The 5 main responsibilities of YCDC for 2014 summit were:

- Informing all Turks around the world between the age of 18-30
- Encouraging them to be candidates for the delegation
 - Assessing the applicants to find the most refined
 - Training the delegation for the summit
 - Funding the delegation

YCDC succeeded to collect many distinguished applications. After the meticulous evaluation period, a team of 5 graduates could be built. It has been discussed at many instances that the Turkish delegation had the highest level of technical skills in finance issues. Parallel to this, YCDC was aware that such a youth movement's success would be limited without government endorsement. YCDC aimed to introduce itself to Ministry of Foreign Affairs and Turkish Treasury. The endorsements were gained on a personal level. YCDC visited Turkish Exporters Assembly for a sponsoring of the delegation flight costs. All flight costs were sponsored by Turkish Exporters Assembly.

YCDC also played an important role in institutionalizing of the Y20 network and building The IDEA. Each country is represented with two members in The IDEA, whereas YCDC has two members actively working in The IDEA. Currently these Turkish members are managing/coordinating the working groups responsible for communication and establishment of the official organization.

With more experience, YCDC, in 2015, is willing to serve as a medium for young people to inform them about Y20 summits. This year it is also aimed to increase the interactions with government units and to become an officially recognized non-governmental non-profit neutral organization. For the 2015 summit, it is believed that the following strategies will ensure a better success:

- Members of the Turkish delegation should be decided 5 months before the summit.
- The selected delegation should start working (research, analysis, and writing) right after the announcement of the delegation.
- Working as a group is quite important. Therefore, the delegation should have regular meetings (via Skype, Google+, etc.) The audio and video meeting should be held. In addition, the team should meet in person at least a couple of times before the Summit to develop a common mind and friendship.
- Each delegate should create his/her own team (2-3 more person) if possible.
- Possible meetings with the policymakers would be helpful.
- One-to-one or group communications with the former members of the Turkish Delegation would be helpful.
- Getting in touch with the delegation of other countries in advance is important.

YCDC is also ready to participate in G20 Turkey 2015 activities as an NGO to coordinate Y20 related events. A business plan for 2015 is currently being prepared. Further attempts for meetings with government representatives will be conducted.

6 References

- [1] R. G. Presidency, "Outreach Strategy of the Russian G20 Presidency," Russian G20 Presidency, Moscow, 2013.
- [2] YCDC, "Youth Commission for Diplomacy and Collaboration," 2012. [Online]. Available: <http://www.ycdcproject.org>.

7 Appendix



Secrétariat général de la Présidence française du G20 et du G8

SG/G20-G8/n°96

Paris, April 20th 2011

Dear friend,

The Secretariat General of the French Presidency of the G20 and the G8 warmly welcomes and officially supports the 2011 “G8 & G20 Youth Summits” opened to World’s students. This initiative led by the French student society “Youth Diplomacy” is at the really heart of our outreach program towards the global Youth.

The G8 & G20 Youth Summits will go over a negotiation model and will be a concrete opportunity for students to voice their opinion about the G20 and the G8 issues. I sincerely congratulate you for the whole dynamic you have launched five years ago with the creation of the “G8 & G20 Youth Networks” gathering “Youth Diplomacy” and many other international student societies over the G20. Since 2006 and the first “G8 Youth Summit” in Saint-Petersburg, you have been able to involve, inform and train students from all G8 and G20 countries in order to teach them multi-lateral negotiations and international relations.

Finally, I keep encouraging “Youth Diplomacy” as a key actor of the French civil society which has been able to gather high-profile universities such as our leading European Business School “*ESCP Europe*”, the French School of Government “*Ecole Nationale d’Administration*”, our Economics University “*Paris-Dauphine*” and the best Engineering School “*Ecole Polytechnique*”.

I hope, dear Sir Friang, that you will be able to keep it up in order to feed the G20 and G8 with Youth ideas.

Friendly yours,



Laurent Stéfani
 Chef du protocole
 Secrétaire général
 de la présidence française du G20-G8

Thomas FRIANG
 Chairman & Managing Director
 Youth Diplomacy

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LE PRÉSIDENT DE LA RÉPUBLIQUE

Dear friends,

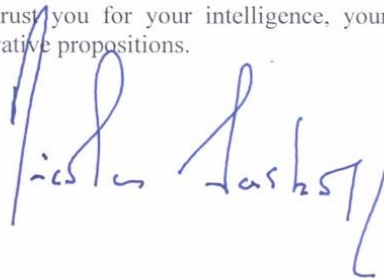
France is honoured to welcome the 2011 G8 & G20 Youth Summits in Paris. These meetings echo the commitment of the young generations to fully take on the most fundamental questions of globalization.

I am keen to congratulate you for your leading initiative and your sense of autonomy. Both the agenda of discussion you have set on your own and the Final Communiqué you have written address the world's youth with a message fostering personal involvement and responsibility. You have proved that there is no age limit to contribute to the common reflexion on global public policies and to be part in the decision making process.

These meetings will be also the occasion for you to develop personal skills so much needed for the democratic debate, the exercise of any leading position either political or professional : the sense of dialogue, the leadership and openness necessary to let emerge a shared vision in a multilateral debate, as well as humility and personal ethic of responsibility required to represent the others, whenever you speak on behalf of an institution, a generation or a country.

I wish that your work had not only trained you to endorse leading positions in the coming years. Today also calls for action and for you to voice your vision along the side of the G20 and G8 Leaders. Never forget that you are debating about the world's future.

Please be sure that my colleagues from the G20 and G8 and I will care a lot about the conclusions of your hard work. I trust you for your intelligence, your creativity and your ability to come up with innovative propositions.



Nicolas SARKOZY

A review of Y20 Australia 2014 Summit by one of the Turkish delegates, Murat Onem:

Imagine a room full of 20 bright young delegates from various nations across the globe gathered around a large rectangular table, entrusted with the task of finalizing a proposal to be presented to the G20 Leaders. Each of us from different cultural and professional backgrounds, most had never met in person before the final negotiations. Divided by the respective interests of the nations we represented, we faced the challenge of uniting under the objective of finalizing the draft agenda on sustainable development and reform of international financial institutions.

Despite the challenges of working under the constraints of a consensus-led framework, issues that would not have been introduced due to time-restrictions made it to the agenda. Through individual and collective efforts, the admirable dedication of the Youth of the G20 to issues of importance on the sustainable development and reform of international financial institutions shined through. Each delegate demonstrated admirable diplomatic presence in lending support across the table to innovative ideas and intellectual rigour in pushing forward important debates.

The leadership skills of each of the delegates manifested through the negotiations in different ways. Some of us developed procedures to manage conflict of ideas, and corralled a group to guide a voting process. Some of us invoked higher standards by reframing the conversation with questions that forced us to reflect on the vision of sustainability and think collectively as members of one group, to seize the opportunity to promote an issue of importance to youth, such as youth unemployment. Some of us took moral leadership by considering reforms aimed towards increasing equitable representation of developing and emerging economies in international financial institutions despite conflicts with country-specific interests. Some of us empowered others to speak up by facilitating knowledge sharing by inviting other delegates to the discussion on issues pertinent to their nations, drawing on examples such as South Africa and Brazil on poverty alleviation or Germany on industry-specific training.

We worked together as a team through embracing conflict in views and promoting a healthy environment for competing ideas to flourish. As a result of our collective efforts we produced a more innovative agenda, and our recommendations were presented to the G20 Leaders and adopted in the final communiqué. Despite the differences amongst us, in the process we were able to learn from each other and form intangible bonds.

The first day we walked in to the negotiation room as delegates representing 20 different nations, strangers to each other. We departed as friends, colleagues, and intellectual partners. This amazing opportunity and experience, of course, could not have been possible without the generosity and hard-work of our hospitable Australian counterparts. I was deeply honoured to be so graciously received by our Australian hosts in the beautiful city of Sydney amongst a group of highly motivated and intelligent group of individuals discussing issues of global importance. I thank the organizing committee of the Australian G20 Presidency and look forward to the future G20 Youth Summits to enable the same spirit to live on.
