

AMNESTY INTERNATIONAL

RECOMMENDATIONS TO THE G20 ON PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The G20 Summit, which this year focuses on ‘Shaping an Interconnected World’, is an important opportunity for G20 countries – which together constitute almost two-thirds of the global population, more than 80 per cent of global GDP and three-quarters of worldwide trade - to affirm their collective commitment to ensuring that human rights are a fundamental part of the framework of interconnectivity that is developing and envisaged, thus setting an important example to the rest of the world.

Amnesty International welcomes the focus on making progress on the implementation of the 2030 Agenda during the summit. Implementation of the Agenda should ensure universal respect for human rights and human dignity and recognize that in our increasingly interconnected world, economic policy and development must be developed and targeted in ways to reduce inequalities and ensure that no one is left behind whilst promoting effective accountability for all stakeholders. In this respect, we urge all members of the G20, to pay particular attention to Goals 5 (Achieve gender equality and empower all women and girls), 10 (Reduce inequality within and among countries) and 16 (Promote peaceful and inclusive societies for sustainable development, provide access to justice for all and build effective, accountable and inclusive institutions at all levels).

PHYSICAL INFRASTRUCTURE, AGRICULTURAL DEVELOPMENT AND CLIMATE CHANGE

The expansion of physical infrastructure is also helping to link people together, but infrastructure development projects can also have a negative impact on the rights of local communities, including land rights, and the rights to health, housing, food, water and education. Similarly, developing agriculture to meet the nutritional and other needs of the world’s growing population poses challenges to sustainability. G20 countries, through investment and development aid, including their governing roles in national and international financial institutions, will have a major role to play in ensuring that development projects in all sectors are both sustainable and respectful of local people’s rights. Our growing interconnectivity should not result in communities being torn apart or people being moved from their homes without adequate safeguards. Likewise, our demand for fossil fuels should not be permitted to affect the health of communities living near oil wells and jeopardize the whole of humanity’s future through climate change. In this regard, the recognition by Agriculture Ministers in their Berlin Declaration¹ of the challenge of climate change in the realization of the right to food and the commitment in the Baden Baden Declaration² of Finance Ministers to phase out unsustainable fossil fuel subsidies are to be welcomed.

Amnesty International urges all G20 member states to:

- **Develop robust climate and sustainability criteria for financial institutions with G20 membership which fund development projects;**

¹ G20 Agriculture Ministers’ Declaration 2017, *Towards food and water security: Fostering sustainability, advancing innovation*, adopted 22 January 2017 in Berlin available at https://www.g20.org/Content/DE/_Anlagen/G7_G20/2017-01-22-g20-agarminister-erklaerung-en.pdf?__blob=publicationFile&v=2

² Communiqué of G20 Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors Meeting, Baden-Baden, Germany, 17-18 March 2017, available at <http://www.g20.utoronto.ca/2017/170318-finance-en.html>

- Ensure that project safeguards prioritize transparency, accountability, and participation of affected communities;
- Commit to moving to 100% renewable energy by 2050 in a manner that is just and equitable, while ensuring full respect of the right to an adequate standard of living and housing, including access to alternative livelihoods for those whose livelihoods are currently dependent on fossil fuels sectors.