

From Hamburg to Buenos Aires

“Mobilizing social and economic benefits to drive climate ambition in the G20 energy agenda”

The G20 Climate and Energy Action Plan for Growth signed by 19 of the G20 leaders at the summit that took place in Hamburg in July 2017 emphasises yet again the urgency of concerted climate action. At the same time, the G20 discussions and resulting Leaders’ Declaration showed the rift in the G20 and the difficulty to maintain climate change as a central topic to be addressed by the 20 leading nations. The Argentinean G20 presidency, which takes over from Germany in December 2017, is currently preparing the G20 process and agenda, culminating in the summit to be held in Buenos Aires in November 2018.



The framing of the climate challenge around broader social and economic impacts and benefits presents an opportunity to find common ground within the group of 20. Addressing climate change from the angle of impacts on key social policy themes, such as employment, poverty reduction, education, health, migration as well as the economic and national security dimension, moves the discussion away from continued controversy and potential deadlock towards integrating it into many non-climate related themes and objectives of the G20.

For the Argentinean presidency, such framing presents an opportunity to create a new narrative to bring closer together the different positions within the G20 and to drive climate commitment “through the backdoor”. It also strongly links to the Argentinean government’s own political agenda focussing on sustainable economic development, the creation of jobs, investments and new business opportunities.

With a view on the social and economic opportunities presented by sustainable energy, driving investments and prosperity worldwide, three promising options to contour Argentina’s G20 presidency are being conveyed:

1. Making “Social and economic opportunities of climate change mitigation and renewable energies” a key topic in Argentina’s G20 presidency

With Argentina’s presidency, the G20 can send out a strong and encouraging message of social and economic prosperity going hand in hand with responsibly managing our planet’s resources and climate. With particular view on the globally seized opportunities presented by renewable energies, Argentina can lead the G20 in jointly seizing the co-benefits of climate change mitigation and sharing opportunity among current and future generations.

2. Launching a global “Climate Co-Benefits Partnership” with the G20 Climate Sustainability Working Group

With convening a Climate Co-Benefits Partnership, Argentina can confirm the G20’s commitment under its presidency to join forces in mobilizing the social and economic co-benefits of mitigating

climate change and create a visible impact of the G20's Climate Sustainability Working Group. For preparing the launching ceremony of the partnership, a preparatory Co-benefits working group with G20 representatives and experts will be instrumental.

3. Preparing G20 briefing papers on the social and economic opportunities (co-benefits) of climate change mitigation and renewable energies

Argentina's G20 presidency may request briefing papers to address questions and topics of particular relevance, allowing to closely connect the Co-benefits vision with the G20's key challenges such as poverty reduction, education and job creation. The established G20 Insights Platform might prove to be an appropriate framework to convene experts' discussions and joint insights to inform the G20's decisions under Argentina's presidency.

Sustainable energy: opportunities for job creation and well-being

According to the ILO, climate change adaptation and mitigation could generate up to **60 million** jobs worldwide. As of 2016, almost **10 million** people worked in renewable energy; in a number of G20 countries jobs the industry surpass those in fossil fuels. In the United States alone, solar jobs are now growing 17 times as fast as the overall economy and already twice as many people are employed in the solar industry than in the coal industry (IRENA, 2017).

The development of sustainable energy sources can also have other positive ripple effects throughout the economy. Close to **1.2 billion** people still lack access to electricity worldwide. Even in the G20, this number reaches around **300 million** people. Providing access to clean energy can promote policy objectives ranging from rural development to female entrepreneurship and health, thereby strengthening overall prosperity and well-being.

Contacts for further information:

Dr. Sebastian Helgenberger
sebastian.helgenberger@iass-potsdam.de
www.cobenefits.info

Frauke Röser
f.roeser@newclimate.org
www.ambitiontoaction.net



Supported by:



INTERNATIONAL CLIMATE INITIATIVE (IKI)



based on a decision of the German Bundestag