



Brasil 2024  
Let's rethink the world



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# T20 Brasil

# Task Force 01

# Statement



## TF01

Fighting inequalities,  
poverty, and hunger



ORGANIZING COMMITTEE:



# 1

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## Introduction to the Task Force's mission and priorities

Task Force 01 acknowledges the pressing need to address systemic inequalities that persist within and among nations. Recognizing the intricate interplay of historical legacies, socioeconomic disparities, and structural barriers, the Task Force is committed to gathering evidence and advocating for effective policies that foster social equity, combat poverty, and ensure inclusivity across all populations

Task Force 01 advocates for the use of human rights principles to build progressive fiscal policy systems that combat gender and race discrimination and promote social equity and inclusion within G20 nations and beyond.

Task Force 01 emphasizes the role of trilateral cooperation in fostering knowledge exchange and resource mobilizations, recognizing the importance of tailored interventions to address unique socioeconomic contexts. The Task Force also advocates that to mitigate and prevent the impacts of poverty and hunger, it is necessary to build sustainable food systems, ensure universal access to health services, and expand social protection coverage, particularly for groups most likely to be left behind.

TF01 aims to put together policy recommendations that focus on the first priority of Brazil's G20 presidency: "Fighting poverty and hunger and promoting social inclusion". It intends to offer inputs to the G20 Task Force on fighting poverty and hunger, but also look at all forms of inequalities, a priority of G20 Brazil Development Working Group,

that can be addressed in a cross-cutting manner by all G20 Working Groups of both Finance and Sherpa tracks.

This TF tackles several critical issues, contributing to accelerate progress towards multiple SDGs:

1. Promoting effective policies to fight poverty and hunger and the role of trilateral cooperation in their promotion;
2. Fostering food security and nutrition through sustainable food systems;
3. Expanding access to social protection and basic services;
4. Promoting universal health coverage, digital health, and open innovation to fight health inequalities;
5. Reforming fiscal policies to reduce inequalities and eradicate poverty;
6. Fighting gender discrimination and inequalities and rethinking the care economy;
7. Fighting race and ethnic discrimination and inequalities.

# 2

## Diagnosis of main problems

Growing inequalities and persistent poverty and hunger underpin global challenges. Between 691 and 783 million people face hunger<sup>1</sup> and about 700 million live in poverty, according to UNDP data.<sup>2</sup> COVID-19 has worsened the situation, increasing global extreme poverty by 23 million since 2019 and exacerbating inequality.<sup>3</sup> In 2021, the wealthiest 10% owned 76% of the world's wealth, while the poorest 50% owned just 2%. These figures highlight stark disparities, as shown in the World Inequality Report 2022.<sup>4</sup> Gender discrimination also affects access to rights, goods, and services, making girls and women more likely to be poor and suffer intersecting inequalities. Similarly, race and ethnic discrimination perpetuate social, economic, and political marginalization.

The root causes of poverty, hunger and inequalities, particularly prevalent in the Global South, are multifaceted and deeply ingrained. Historical legacies, notably colonialism and recurring practices, still lead to an unequal distribution of resources, exacerbating inequalities within and between nations. These inequalities are perpetuated at the

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1 . FAO, IFAD, UNICEF, WFP, and WHO. *The State of Food Security and Nutrition in the World 2023: Urbanization, Agrifood Systems Transformation and Healthy Diets Across the Rural–Urban Continuum*. Rome: FAO, 2023. <https://doi.org/10.4060/cc3017en>.

2 . United Nations Development Programme. "Poverty and Inequality." Accessed June 11, 2024. <https://data.undp.org/povertyand-inequality>.

3 . Castaneda Aguilar, R. Andres, et al. "March 2024 Global Poverty Update from the World Bank: First Estimates of Global Poverty Until 2022 from Survey Data." World Bank Blogs, March 26, 2024. <https://blogs.worldbank.org/en/opendata/march-2024-global-poverty-update-from-the-world-bank-first-esti>.

4 . World Inequality Database. World Inequality Report 2022. <https://wir2022.wid.world/>.

national level by systemic social discrimination, particularly against racialized groups, which deters their access to rights, opportunities, and essential services and further entrenches the cycle of poverty and hunger across generations.

Efforts to combat these issues demand a comprehensive and coordinated effort transcending national borders, encapsulated in trilateral cooperation involving countries from the Global South, Global North, and international organizations. Such cooperation facilitates the exchange of knowledge, resources, and capacity building crucial for addressing the disparities in resource access among nations. To that end, it is important to guarantee South-to-South and South-to-North cooperation so as not to perpetuate or deepen historical dependency dynamics within trilateral cooperation.

Recognizing the interconnectedness of poverty, hunger, and inequality, interventions must address environmental challenges, particularly those exacerbated by climate change, which disproportionately affect more vulnerable populations and the Global South. Developing policies and promoting investment to foster food sourcing from short supply chains, with a focus on local and regional producers as well as small family farmers and communities, is pivotal for building resilient food systems.

Expanding access to social protection and basic services is essential for poverty alleviation and social inclusion. However, global trends such as demographic shifts, digitalization, and fiscal constraints impact to different extents the effectiveness, readiness and coverage of social protection systems. Therefore, it is crucial to consider the diversity of domestic realities when analyzing these, especially taking into account the population pyramid due to the type of care services each age group demands.

Improving access to health care, underscored by the COVID-19 pandemic, is paramount in addressing health inequalities. Equitable

access to healthcare, digital infrastructure, and open innovation are crucial components, necessitating increased public investment in health facilities.

Fiscal policies play a pivotal role in reducing inequalities and eradicating poverty. Progressive taxation and comprehensive fiscal programs aimed at guaranteeing human rights are essential for increasing social investment and addressing various forms of inequality.

Care is the foundation of economic development and social wellbeing. However, care work (paid and unpaid) is unequally distributed between genders, and the contribution of the care economy to growth remains highly invisible. Policies must guarantee the measurement to recognize and reward unpaid care work as well as alleviate its burden, shouldered mainly by women, and provide decent job conditions to care workers – which is highly racialized and undertaken by migrant workers with limited access to labor rights. Anti-racist policies are imperative, requiring the incorporation of recognition, redistribution, and reparative measures into public agendas. Gender-sensitive policies that promote work-life balance while addressing gender disparities in labor markets and decision-making roles are also needed.

In summary, addressing poverty and hunger requires holistic approaches that address historical injustices, systemic inequalities, and intersecting forms of discrimination. Cooperation, sustainability, social protection, health, fiscal reform, gender equality, and anti-racism must be central pillars of comprehensive strategies to achieve equitable and inclusive societies.

# 3

## Key recommendations

### **1. Strengthen multilateral cooperation through the Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty.**

The G20 should strengthen efforts to eradicate hunger and poverty (SDGs 1 and 2) while reducing inequalities (SDG 10) by building the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. The Global Alliance can provide collective action, enhance synergies with other successful experiences, create a permanent multilateral arena to leverage financial resources and knowledge, promote learning and exchange of innovations on sustainable food systems, food security, and nutrition, education, and health policies, effective social protection systems and investments to build resilience to shocks, with a focus on the poorest and most vulnerable, including women, children, persons with disabilities, older persons, indigenous peoples, local communities, refugees and migrants. The Global Alliance can help by facilitating financing to developing countries, technology transfer and technical assistance for the implementation of hunger and poverty reduction initiatives. Finally, the Global Alliance should encourage countries to strengthen short supply chains by focusing on local production and distribution to reduce environmental damage and tackle food insecurity.

### **2. Bolster social protection systems to tackle poverty, inequality, and climate change.**

The social protection systems should be globally restructured to confront vulnerability, poverty, and inequality, integrating social protection, social services, education services, and health services. Universal social protection floors should be guaranteed. Universal



health systems should be strengthened to offer immediate responses to health emergencies and provide long-term care policies that reinforce basic human rights. Access to education should be ensured to low and medium-income households and have an early child development (ECD) focus. Fiscal policy should target these aims by enforcing progressive approaches, such as wealth taxation and other income transfer mechanisms, that are attentive to race and gender biases. That includes a special focus on care policies. The provision of care should be socialized with the strengthening of public care services and policies. An universal income should be provided to older people, regardless of their occupational trajectories (paid, unpaid, formal or informal). Social protection must be redesigned to address populations living in regions facing environmental risks. Social protection goes along with just transition goals by enforcing decent job creation and promoting income transfer programs that tackle income concentration.

### **3. Employ progressive fiscal policy to fight against poverty, inequality, and social exclusion.**

To tackle poverty, inequality, and social exclusion, fiscal policies with a focus on progressive taxation need to be reinforced. The G20 should enforce the adaptation and the expansion of fiscal space through progressive taxation and support the role of public investments in sustainable development, and social and economic fundamental rights. Existing instruments should be improved, and innovative financial solutions should be implemented. Fiscal policies must uphold human rights principles and the goals of addressing inequality, promoting gender, racial and ethnic equity, and protecting the environment. Tax systems are central to these goals and should be redirected to reduce income and wealth concentration, especially by the adoption of a global wealth tax. Taxation should be employed to support climate crisis response by financing adaptation and mitigation, universal social protection, and decent job creation.

#### **4. Address unequal access to healthcare by enforcing universal health coverage in developing regions through technology transfers and global cooperation to prevent future pandemics.**

Promoting equitable access to comprehensive healthcare would contribute to grant the right to health as well as tackle socioeconomic gaps. Given the systemic nature of sanitary threats, universal health coverage and health systems organization must be the primary goal in preparing for future pandemics. For this, it is crucial to foster technology transfer, invest in R&D to consolidate robust and integrated data systems in each country (especially low-income countries) as well as develop a shared digital infrastructure to allow for coordination both during and outside of crisis contexts, incorporating the potential of emerging tools such as artificial intelligence. International coordination should prioritize expanding accessible health services to vulnerable populations, communities, and regions. Strengthening national health systems requires a global effort to improve technology cooperation and address digital exclusion, which could obstruct the widespread adoption of digital health solutions. Vaccines should be viewed as strategic tools for addressing global health threats and must be developed collaboratively and distributed equitably among all countries. The G20 should support multilateral investment mechanisms such as the World Bank (WB) and World Health Organization's (WHO) **Pandemic Fund** to ensure pandemic prevention, preparedness, and response, especially aimed at helping lower- and middle-income countries scale up their efforts to prepare for future pandemics.

#### **5. Support a global initiative on data generation to allow the qualification and quantification of systemic inequalities.**

Designing effective and efficient policies increasingly relies on data availability and accuracy. The G20 should articulate a global effort to compile and publicize relevant data that help track global inequality trends. Each country should be fostered to develop or strengthen its social data collection system, using the UN Stats Division framework

as a guide and nurturing it, ensuring to include disaggregated income and wealth microdata to support and strengthen evidence-based policy frameworks and policy accountability. The effort should consider different perspectives on inequality and consider gender, race, and ethnicity elements. Cooperative initiatives on data processing and publicization should also address insufficient data on racialized and indigenous peoples and traditional communities.

# 4

## Task Force members

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