

W20 EU Governance 2019 - CDM Note Jan 2019

Hello esteemed colleagues. I think the summary Tsuki made of our excellent work for W20 Japan in Paris two weeks ago should also be included here as it has a lot of input that was made in the meeting. Herewith I also wish to share again some details on the feedback I gave at the time, as well. Given the extremely sensitive political climate in Europe (and beyond), as well as inquiries we are fielding from EU stakeholders, I feel it is important to raise these issues.

In order to promote democracy, transparency, and sustainability in the W20 process, it is paramount that we collectively articulate and agree on an approach for selecting the below roles to the W20 forthwith:

1. EU Delegates: We would like to articulate and agree on an approach for selecting members of the EU delegation that ideally targets citizens and representatives of organizations from the 24 EU/European countries that do not otherwise have representation to the G7/G20/W20, ie in addition to Italy, France, Germany and the UK (for now). The G20 specifically gives voice to these 24 EU and other countries, and we would therefore like to ensure that W20 do the same. There are certainly other criteria for EU delegation membership, but this is arguably a minimum.

2. Heads of Delegation: Given the visibility and even political stature of this role, in the same direction, we would like to articulate and agree on guidelines for selecting heads of delegation that also promote democracy, transparency, sustainability and inclusion in the W20 process, by including criteria for the Head Delegate role like the following:

- a. Role is for one calendar year concurrent with Host Country
- b. Succession takes advantage of troika approach, where possible
- c. Individual meets criteria for “delegate”
- d. Individual serves as delegate for minimum one year prior to assuming Head Delegate role

Etc.

In Europe, we have a plurality of people, geographies, sovereign nations and organizations whose voice and experience are critical to an open and democratic G20 dialogue, and within the realm of the possible, we would like the W20 to engage, respect and give room to these voices. I

understand the situation may be different for delegations representing a single sovereign nation, but as citizen of Belgium, a smaller EU country where the NGO I founded is headquartered, I would especially like to ensure that the EU delegation to the W20 remain a channel for representing countries like mine, in the same way that the G20 itself is a channel for representing countries not party to the G7. Given that the interests of 24 nations is in the balance, the idea that the EU delegation would become a secondary channel for countries with their own delegation to the G20, or even G7, is naturally indefensible. Even with the difficult time constraints at present, therefore, we must seek to ensure diversity and inclusion in the W20 dialogue by actively including, and not marginalising, smaller EU countries.

3. Expert Partners: To ensure continuity around the pillars of W20 discussion, which may evolve more or less over time, it would be valuable to articulate and agree on criteria for selecting a series of expert partners, including individuals and organizations, to be party to the W20 dialogue “outside” the constraints to which delegates and heads of delegation would be held.

4. Enabling Technology: As requested, I—with the help of Etienne if he agrees—will take up discussion on the technology support tools we can use to facilitate the W20 dialogue, and look forward to hearing from anyone who would like to contribute to this effort.

I hope the foregoing adds to this open and constructive dialogue on these very important matters which I think will in turn contribute to the relevance, credibility and sustainability of the W20 process. :)