



# G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance 2025 South Africa Communiqué

*Signed in Johannesburg, South Africa, at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance Annual Summit on September 20, 2025*

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20 YEA) is a collective of organizations dedicated to promoting entrepreneurship among young people across G20 countries. Each year, the G20 YEA brings together hundreds of the world's most dynamic young entrepreneurs at its annual summit to share their ideas with global leaders and governments, catalyzing economic renewal, job creation, innovation, and social transformation.

The 2025 G20 YEA Summit, held in Johannesburg, South Africa, focused on the themes of "Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainability." In the months prior to the summit, the Alliance engaged young entrepreneurs from across our global network to determine how the international entrepreneurial ecosystem could contribute to the priorities identified by the South African G20 Presidency, which included food security, climate change, and advancing digital technology. We were conscious that we are meeting at a time of rising youth unemployment and ongoing conflicts in places as diverse as Ukraine, Gaza, Sudan, Congo, and other areas. In the past several months, we have also seen global trade norms disrupted in a manner not seen since the 1930s. The uncertainty this introduces to the global economic system is occurring against the backdrop of the ongoing and worsening climate crisis.

The world's young entrepreneurs appreciate the urgency of this moment and the need for coordinated global measures. As the next generation of business, social and political leaders, we call upon G20 Leaders as they meet in South Africa to enact the following recommendations:

## **1. Commit to specific measures to place trade certainty at the heart of the global economy**

Entrepreneurship has always involved risk, with young business founders accepting that a degree of uncertainty is part of their path forward - and a possible barrier to their success. Yet, in recent months, arbitrary and troubling trade measures have introduced a high degree of uncertainty into the heart of the global entrepreneurial ecosystem. This uncertainty can be fatal for early-stage businesses, inhibiting innovation, increasing operational risks and disrupting supply chains. How can entrepreneurs start and scale ventures if they cannot reasonably know what conditions that may govern their global supply chains and relationships with customers and investors?

The G20 YEA calls on G20 leaders to reaffirm their commitment to a rules-based international trading system that provides the stable and predictable business conditions that entrepreneurs need to start, grow and scale their businesses. This could include measures such as:

1.1 Guarantee stability and fairness in global trade by reaffirming a rules-based multilateral system and expanding mutual recognition of product standards and certifications across borders.

1.2 Simplify and modernize trade processes by improving customs efficiency, adopting single-window systems, and promoting open data and transparency to reduce barriers for entrepreneurs and SMEs.

1.3 Strengthen supply chain resilience and dispute resolution by leveraging digital systems for faster transit of goods and services and by creating fair, accessible mechanisms to resolve trade disputes for entrepreneurs and SMEs.

## **2. Commit to promoting inclusive growth through expanded entrepreneurial opportunity**

Entrepreneurship is a powerful driver of growth and inclusion. Yet too many young people, particularly those who are socially and economically disadvantaged, remain excluded from the entrepreneurial ecosystem. High youth unemployment in many G20 countries underlines the urgent need for broader and more equitable access to entrepreneurial opportunities.

The G20 YEA calls on G20 leaders to promote inclusive growth by:

2.1 Ensure equitable access to entrepreneurial supports – Governments should commit to providing young people with equitable access to funding, mentorship, and regulatory certainty, regardless of geography, gender, or socioeconomic background.

2.2 Measure and track progress – Collect and share comparable data on youth entrepreneurship and unemployment across the G20 to benchmark progress, identify promising practices, and strengthen accountability for inclusion.

2.3 Expand accessible infrastructure and markets – Create community-based entrepreneurship hubs, simplify grant and licensing processes, and use public procurement as a tool to open markets for young entrepreneurs from diverse backgrounds.

## **3. Promote entrepreneurship as a route to sustainable agriculture and food security**

As global food insecurity intensifies, the entrepreneurial ecosystem must play a central role in building more sustainable and resilient food systems. Young entrepreneurs are well-positioned to innovate in such areas as regenerative agriculture, logistics, distribution, and community-based agribusiness. Yet much of the financial and policy support for entrepreneurship remains concentrated in the tech sector and in urban areas, leaving rural and agricultural entrepreneurs underserved.

The G20 YEA calls on G20 leaders to:

3.1 Expand financing for sustainable agribusiness – Strengthen agricultural finance programs to empower farmers and young entrepreneurs to innovate and scale climate-resilient practices.

- 3.2 Accelerate adoption of regenerative technologies and materials – Use regulatory incentives, education systems, and best-practice sharing to encourage the innovations that make food systems more productive and climate-resilient.
- 3.3 Ensure equal support for rural entrepreneurs – Provide rural and small agribusinesses with similar access to funding, infrastructure, and mentorship that urban entrepreneurs enjoy.

#### **4. Support entrepreneurship as a key part of the global green economic transition**

The world is grappling with how to accelerate the ongoing transition to more sustainable economic models as the impacts of the climate crisis are felt in countries around the globe. Young entrepreneurs are at the forefront of this cleantech transition, pioneering new ways to make our economies greener and more sustainable. G20 governments have recognized the immediacy of this crisis and we urge them to consider the following specific measures to accelerate the green economic transition.

- 4.1 Create a G20 green entrepreneurship expert roundtable to review the policy, finance and support environment in all G20 countries to make it more conducive to sustainable innovation and then create a roadmap, with accelerated timelines, for rapid adoption and implementation.
- 4.2 Harmonize international green regulatory standards to ensure they are coherent, effective and focused on supporting the rapid innovation necessary to address the climate crisis.
- 4.3 Adapt and implement transparent carbon credit systems that are broadened to include circular economy practices, such as plastic reuse, recycling, and repurposing of industrial and commercial wastes.
- 4.4 Introduce market-based incentives for circular economy practices and ecosystem preservation and restoration.

#### **5. Support the technical, policy and educational infrastructure necessary for digital innovation**

Technology can be a powerful driver of economic growth in itself, and is also an important enabler of modernizing and revolutionizing existing industries. Encouraging digital innovation among young entrepreneurs and supporting the businesses they start and grow in this area will be a key element of the future of global economies.

The G20 YEA calls upon G20 Leaders to enact policy, financial and educational measures for young people that enable them to maximize the opportunity of the ongoing technological transformation of our economies and societies, which will include:

- 5.1 Commit to the goal of universal Internet access standards to ensure high-speed access in all regions of all G20 countries, bridging digital divides and enabling equitable participation in the global digital economy.

- 5.2 Establish cross-border innovation hubs and exchange programs for digital entrepreneurs to foster international collaboration and encourage the creation of globally connected startups and SMEs.
- 5.3 Work with global partners to create a G20 Global Youth Digital Entrepreneurship Fund to provide non-dilutive, founder-friendly capital such as grants or zero-interest loans to youth-led digital startups and scale-ups.
- 5.4 Implement a G20-wide set of transparent standards for intellectual property in the age of AI to provide confidence to young entrepreneurs, balancing the protection of innovators with the realities of the economic potential of emerging technologies.
- 5.5 Strengthen entrepreneurial education and embed real-world startup experiences at every level of schooling, including integration of AI and Web3.0 content.

On behalf of millions of young entrepreneurs in G20 countries and the hundreds of millions of young people who deserve economic and entrepreneurial opportunity, we submit these recommendations in the spirit of partnership and in the firm belief that empowering young entrepreneurs will drive dynamism, economic growth, and social renewal. We believe commitments from G20 governments in these areas will send a powerful signal to the next generation of leaders, our young entrepreneurs, who are ready to shape a more inclusive and sustainable world.

Signed September 20, 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa by the following G20 YEA member organizations:



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