G20
Young Entrepreneurs'
Alliance

G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance 2026 Vienna Communiqué

Signed in Vienna, Austria, at the G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance Annual Summit on September 18, 2026

The G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance (G20 YEA) is a global network of organizations committed to advancing entrepreneurship among young people across G20 economies. Each year, the Alliance brings together young entrepreneurs and the organizations that represent them to identify common challenges, exchange solutions, and present practical recommendations to G20 Leaders in order to foster economic growth, job creation, innovation, and shared prosperity.

The 2026 G20 YEA Summit in Vienna takes place at a moment of profound economic and technological transformation, marked by persistent disparities in access to capital, networks, and entrepreneurial opportunities.

In the months leading to the Summit, the Alliance engaged young entrepreneurs across its international network to identify the conditions they consider most important to start, operate, and scale their businesses across borders. Their message is clear: entrepreneurship can be a vital driver of increased economic growth and international connection if governments act together.

We therefore call upon G20 Leaders to consider the following recommendations:

1. Partner with entrepreneurs to drive growth through simpler, smarter and more predictable regulation

Entrepreneurs accept commercial risks as an inherent part of building businesses. They should not, however, face unnecessary uncertainty created by fragmented regulations, repetitive administrative procedures, disproportionate compliance requirements, or unpredictable approval processes.

For young entrepreneurs in particular, the cost of regulation is measured not only in money but also in founder time, delayed investment, postponed hiring, and missed opportunities.

The G20 YEA calls on G20 Leaders to:

1.1 Adopt a Young Entrepreneur and SME Impact Test for new regulation

Assess the cost, complexity and practical consequences of proposed regulations for startups and SMEs before implementation, applying proportionate requirements based on the size, maturity and risk profile of businesses.

1.2 Establish integrated digital business gateways based on a "provide information once" principle.
Young entrepreneurs should be able to access business registration, licences, permits, taxation, social security obligations, government support programs and other essential services through interoperable digital systems, with clear guidance, application tracking and defined processing timelines.

1.3 Increase regulatory certainty and administrative accountability.
G20 ç should establish transparent approval timelines, coordinate implementation dates for major regulatory changes, regularly review outdated requirements, and provide accessible guidance that allows young entrepreneurs to understand their obligations without unnecessary dependence on costly professional services.

1.4 Reduce regulatory barriers and strengthen support for international scaling.
G20 governments should reduce regulatory and administrative barriers to cross-border business through greater interoperability of standards, certifications and digital systems, streamlined customs procedures, and practical market-entry support, including export readiness, trade finance, B2B connections and trusted local networks, while facilitating cross-border private investment.

1.5 Ensure proportionate regulation supports business competitiveness.
G20 governments should recognize that affordable and reliable energy is a key contributor to competitiveness and ensure that energy transition and supply chain sustainability requirements remain proportionate for young businesses. Compliance obligations should avoid burdening smaller businesses with disproportionate reporting and due-diligence requirements and ensure simple and standardized requirements for market access.

2. Modernize financial architecture to expand access to capital for young entrepreneurs

Access to capital remains one of the most persistent barriers to entrepreneurship. Young founders often have limited collateral, shorter credit histories, fewer investor relationships and less capacity to absorb high financing costs, causing viable businesses to be excluded by traditional financing systems.

The G20 YEA calls upon G20 Leaders to:

2.1 Establish a Young Enterprise Finance Compact.
G20 economies should promote complementary financing across the entrepreneurial journey, including microgrants, affordable loans, public guarantees, working-capital and export finance, venture capital and patient growth capital. Early-stage entrepreneurs should benefit from proportionate eligibility and streamlined applications, while public support should leverage responsible private investment. Simple and predictable tax incentives and proportionate frameworks for employee equity participation should support venture creation, talent attraction, investment and sustainable growth.

2.2 Modernize credit assessment for entrepreneurs and SMEs.
Financial institutions should complement traditional collateral and credit-history requirements with reliable indicators such as verified cash flow, accounting records, digital-payment history and business performance, while ensuring privacy, transparency, cybersecurity and data accuracy. Insolvency and

credit frameworks should also enable a genuine second chance, avoiding disproportionate personal liability and ensuring that completed debt discharge does not create permanent barriers to future financing.

2.3 Make cross-border financial infrastructure faster, cheaper and more transparent.
G20 governments should reduce the cost and processing time of cross-border payments, foreign-exchange transactions and international banking services for SMEs, while improving transparency regarding the total cost of financial services.

2.4 Use public procurement and corporate partnerships to help young businesses reach their first major customers.
Governments and large companies should create proportionate qualification requirements, innovation procurement programs, pilot opportunities, appropriately sized contracts, binding payment deadlines and effective enforcement mechanisms to allow smaller companies to build track records and scale. Where appropriate, measurable participation objectives and transparent reporting should help assess and expand access for startups, SMEs and young entrepreneurs.

3. Accelerate responsible artificial intelligence adoption and digital competitiveness for young entrepreneurs

Artificial intelligence and emerging technologies are rapidly reshaping productivity, competition and the organization of work. For young entrepreneurs, these technologies can reduce barriers to market entry and provide capabilities previously available primarily to large organizations. Accelerating their responsible adoption can reduce the technological divides that discourage competition and disadvantage young entrepreneurs and their businesses.

The G20 YEA calls on G20 Leaders to:

3.1 Establish SME AI Adoption Accelerators.
Governments, businesses and entrepreneurship organizations should collaborate to provide implementation vouchers, computing credits, cybersecurity assistance, sector-specific expertise, mentoring and regulatory sandboxes that enable young entrepreneurs to test and adopt AI and other emerging technologies responsibly. Support should focus on demonstrated business needs, productivity improvements and measurable outcomes.

3.2 Develop clear, risk-based and internationally compatible principles for responsible AI use.
Existing and emerging regulatory frameworks should be regularly reviewed to ensure predictable expectations concerning privacy, cybersecurity, intellectual property, transparency, data governance and human accountability, while avoiding disproportionate compliance burdens on young entrepreneurs and their businesses. In high-impact applications, human judgement and accountability should remain clearly defined.

3.3 Expand access to secure digital infrastructure and trusted technology.
Young entrepreneurs should have affordable access to connectivity, computing capacity, secure cloud services, trusted AI tools and interoperable data systems. G20 governments should promote data portability and interoperability, including across borders and digital ecosystems, where appropriate, to strengthen competition and reduce unnecessary technological dependence.

3.4 Use regulatory testing areas, public procurement and international innovation partnerships to accelerate responsible experimentation.
Young entrepreneurs should have opportunities to test emerging technologies in real-world environments, obtain reference customers and collaborate across borders while regulators gain practical understanding of emerging business models and technologies.

4. Make entrepreneurial education and future-ready skills a lifelong economic priority

Traditional education systems need to keep up with our rapidly transforming global economy. Today's young entrepreneurs must understand not only how to develop a product or establish a company, but also how to manage finances, use artificial intelligence, navigate regulation, hire people, protect data, access international markets and adapt continuously to technological change. Such skills and resilience cannot be developed exclusively in the classroom.

The G20 YEA calls upon G20 Leaders to:

4.1 Integrate entrepreneurial, financial and digital literacy throughout education.
Entrepreneurship should be introduced progressively from secondary education through universities, vocational institutions and lifelong-learning programs, including across academic disciplines, combining domain expertise with entrepreneurial, financial and digital capabilities, AI literacy, cybersecurity, leadership and critical thinking.

4.2 Make experiential learning a central component of entrepreneurial education.
Learning that comes from experimentation and responsible failure should be recognized as part of entrepreneurial development. Students and young entrepreneurs should have access to practical and inclusive opportunities to develop real ventures, validate ideas with customers, manage budgets and sell products and services, with particular emphasis on structured apprenticeships and work-based or dual-learning models, and ongoing mentorship from experienced founders.

4.3 Strengthen partnerships between education, entrepreneurs and the private sector.
Schools and universities should be supported to more closely collaborate with entrepreneurship organizations, accelerators, companies, investors and experienced entrepreneurs to provide mentorship, practical expertise, business networks and pathways from education to enterprise creation.

4.4 Prepare entrepreneurs for international and sustainable growth.
Entrepreneurship education should include practical knowledge of taxation, legal fundamentals, financing, international trade, cross-cultural communication, sustainability, resilient supply chains and emerging technologies. Programs should also prepare young entrepreneurs for different pathways into business ownership, including venture creation and business succession, and measure success through capabilities gained, businesses created or transferred, productivity, survival, growth and employment outcomes.

5. Give young entrepreneurs a meaningful role in economic and innovation policymaking

Governments should, as a first principle of policy-making, view young entrepreneurs not simply as beneficiaries of policies, but as partners in designing and implementing them. Young entrepreneurs experience the practical consequences of economic policy, regulation, technology adoption and market transformation in real time. Their participation, before decisions are finalized, can make policymaking more responsive, evidence-based and better informed by the realities of starting and scaling businesses.

The G20 YEA calls upon G20 Leaders to:

5.1 Establish Young Entrepreneur Policy Councils or equivalent mechanisms
These mechanisms should provide structured and ongoing input to ministries and public institutions responsible for economic development, finance, trade, innovation, employment and entrepreneurship, including before relevant policies are finalized. Representation should be purposely inclusive, reflecting different sectors, regions, business stages and backgrounds, with transparent processes that ensure meaningful participation, continuity and accountability.

5.2 Strengthen accountability and continuity.
G20 governments should consider transparent mechanisms and appropriate indicators to track progress on entrepreneurship policies, identify good practices and measure outcomes in areas such as business creation, regulatory burden, financing access, procurement, internationalization, innovation and employment. These mechanisms should also track how young entrepreneurs' input informs policy development and implementation, while supporting continuity across G20 Presidencies.

These recommendations are a product of the G20 YEA's commitment to **inclusive, open and fair international markets, resilient supply chains, affordable and reliable energy, resilient food systems, sustainable development and equitable access to entrepreneurial opportunity**.

Young entrepreneurs are prepared to invest, innovate, create employment, enter new markets and develop solutions to the economic and technological challenges facing our societies. Their success, however, depends in part on whether the institutions surrounding them allow innovation to move at the speed of opportunity.

We therefore encourage G20 Leaders to place entrepreneurship at the heart of the global growth agenda and to work with the organizations representing young entrepreneurs to translate these recommendations into measurable action.

Signed September 18, 2026, in Vienna, Austria, by the G20 Young Entrepreneurs' Alliance member organizations.

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