F20 ANNUAL REPORT 2020

Keeping on Track in Times of a Pandemic
More Resilience, Recovering Better

Foundations Platform F20

For a transformation that leaves no one behind.
## CONTENT

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Section</th>
<th>Page</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>Preface</td>
<td>1</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Keeping F20 on Track:</strong></td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>More Resilience, Recovering Better</td>
<td></td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F20 Political Activities</strong> and Publications</td>
<td>3</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>The Nexus Report on Climate and Biodiversity</td>
<td>4</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>Policy Briefing #2/2020 “Achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era” and Webinar</td>
<td>5</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F20 and the G20 Process under the Saudi Arabian Presidency</strong></td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>F20 Climate Solutions Week</td>
<td>6</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Preparations for the G20 Process in Italy and COP26 in the UK in 2021</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F20 Chronicles 2020</strong></td>
<td>11</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>2020 Financial Overview for F20</strong></td>
<td>13</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Further Steps in 2021</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Phase 2021–2023</strong></td>
<td>14</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F20 Governance</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Summary</strong></td>
<td>15</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>The F20 Team</strong></td>
<td>16</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

---

F20 Head Office

at the Environmental Foundation Michael Otto
Glockengiesserwall 26
20095 Hamburg
Germany

www.foundations-20.org
“Managing the unmanageable” seems to be an accurate description of the day-to-day business of the F20 secretariat in 2020, with almost everything being left to the mercy of the unforeseeable implications of a pandemic. The COVID-19 crisis still poses an unprecedented global vulnerability experience for the human species and is obviously not over yet, despite vaccinations being introduced step by step. This vulnerability experience included millions of painful personal stories of loss and grief as well as a global one: There is only one earth, we are all in this together, and we have to increase the resilience of our societies if we want humanity to survive.

In terms of predictability, 2020 was a year of challenges, albeit in very different ways than expected. Foundations Platform F20 had big plans for climate policy in 2020, with two UN summits—one on biodiversity and one on climate change—and a series of important G20 gatherings planned in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. However, with the COVID-19 pandemic unfolding, everything had to be changed. As a result of the pandemic, our work in 2020 was shaped by the premise that we will not go back to how things were prior to the pandemic. Instead, it quickly became clear that the pandemic would be an opportunity to re-emphasise the interconnectedness of global challenges ranging from a pandemic to environmental degradation to the climate change and biodiversity crisis. Sustainable development and climate protection can make our societies more resilient; this was not necessarily understood nor the subject of the broader sustainability discourse before.

The key to resilience lies not in artificially sustaining a destructive system but in stabilising the environment, reducing pollution levels, and implementing regenerative agriculture and renewable energy. Our response to the current crisis must promote alignment with the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), including by reforming our economic, social, and political systems. Otherwise, any stimulus will most likely remain ineffective in the medium and long terms and propel us towards the next global crisis, be it due to immense environmental pollution, mass extinctions leading to grave impacts on global food production, water shortages, energy crises, extreme weather events, or all of the above. Only by doing everything in our hands to stabilise the sensitive climate systems can we stop the collapse of our ecosystems and secure our food supply.
In this spirit, we pushed for the implementation of the European Green Deal by launching the F20 recommendations for a green recovery, issued a policy briefing on “Achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era” in collaboration with One Earth, and published “The Nexus Report: Nature-based Solutions to the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis” with the SEE Foundation in China and Wyss Campaign for Nature, including recommendations to the G20 and the UN.

With our partner foundation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the King Khalid Foundation, we hosted a four-day event titled “Resilience and Recovery: Highlighting Solutions for the G20 on Climate and Sustainability” and supported by the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU) and BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt. During the week, a broad range of high-level experts and representatives of foundations discussed cutting-edge topics such as sustainable finance, COVID-19, and the climate crisis as well as the implications of the biodiversity, health, and climate nexus. F20 and its partner foundations also discussed the role of philanthropy as part of the solution in overcoming the intertwined crises.

With respect to the organisational development of F20, we are very pleased to expand our F20 network by having numerous new members join us, including the Forum for Active Philanthropy, Schöpflin Stiftung (Germany), the Cariplo Foundation, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo and Fondazione di Comunità di Messina (Italy), the Selco Foundation (India), Hivos (The Netherlands), the Sabanci Foundation (Turkey), and the Bulb Foundation and Foundation Scotland (UK).

2021 is not only the year for governments to start implementing different measures for an economic recovery. It is also the European Year, with the G7, COP26, and the presidency of the G20 hosted by the UK and Italy. At COP26, governments will take stock of the implementation of the Paris Agreement to assess the collective progress towards achieving the purpose of the agreement and its long-term goals. Hopefully, the results will shape the preparation of subsequent national climate plans and allow for increased ambitions and climate action in line with the Paris Agreement. The G20 summit is expected to conclude with a bold climate commitment, with China, Japan, South Korea, and the EU having already made commitments to a zero-emissions target and the US administration being back on board. With the upcoming G20 presidencies of Indonesia (2022) and India (2023), F20 will further build on its work in sustainable finance, the climate–biodiversity nexus, and the role of cities.

We are inviting you to take a closer look at F20’s activities as well as our annual financial report for 2020. We look forward to joining forces with you and would like to thank you for your ongoing support.

All the best,

Klaus Milke
(Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit)

Maria Luisa Parmigiani
(Fondazione Unipolis)

Princess Bessmah bint Bader
(King Khalid Foundation)

– F20 Chairs –

Stefan Schurig

– F20 Secretary General –
As the pandemic unfolded in 2020, all activities planned for the year had to be shifted to virtual settings. Moreover, the F20 mission had to be put into the context of the global health crisis, the resulting economic crisis, and its political responses. Obvious links between the climate, health, and biodiversity agendas suddenly gained much more attention. Key messages to the G20 and COP26 had to be embedded within the global discourse on recovery and on protection from a future crisis:

The global COVID-19 crisis continues to challenge people in their daily lives, healthcare systems, and economies. At the same time, the question on how recovery plans can ultimately contribute to more resilient and sustainable societies has become more important than ever before. The pandemic exposed significant shortcomings in our global systems, and the vulnerability of the global community became evident. The fight against the virus demands a coordinated global response. It became clear that mitigating future risks requires a development trajectory that helps to limit and decrease environmental risks related to climate change, the extinction of species, and the degradation of land. When it comes to coping with massive impacts on the economy, any recovery package must aim to mitigate these future risks at the same time. Thus, we strongly advocated for recovery measures to build up the resilience of our societies, in alignment with the UN 2030 Agenda and the Paris Climate Agreement.

F20 POLITICAL ACTIVITIES AND PUBLICATIONS

- Recommendations for a green recovery in collaboration with the ICP Hub
- Establishing a virtual working relationship with the European Commission on green recovery and the European Green Deal
- Round table with Russian partners on “Climate and Sustainable Development after the Coronavirus Crisis: - How will the World change?”
- 🔄 Policy Briefing #2/2020, in collaboration with One Earth, “Achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era”, showcasing ways to keep the increase of the global temperature under the dangerous limit of 1.5 °C, including a 🔄 four-minute video.
- F20 at the Global Energy Summit, in co-operation with the Smart Energy Council
- Launch of a list of F20 recommendations to the G20 ministers of finance and central bank governors
“The Nexus Report: Nature-based Solutions to the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis” was coordinated with partner foundations from China (SEE Foundation) and the US (Wyss Campaign for Nature) and published in November 2020. The publication provides an action agenda for implementing the emerging principles of Nature-based Solutions by 2030, independently of the concrete political processes, and creates a link to the successful implementation of the Paris Climate Convention and the UN Sustainability Goals of the 2030 Agenda. Under the heading “better recovery”, reference is also made to how the path out of the coronavirus crisis can be underpinned with sustainability goals. The SEE Foundation (China) distributed the publication to governmental organisations in China, encouraging further in-depth discussions on national goals for reducing CO₂ emissions.

Pushing the G20 towards a Net-Zero Emissions Economy: Country Profiles and Policy Recommendations

This F20 policy briefing is based on the 2019 Brown to Green Report, which was compiled by Climate Transparency and actively contributed to by several of the F20 partners. The Brown to Green Report is the world’s most comprehensive annual review of G20 climate action, providing concise and comparable information on mitigation, finance, and vulnerability. The report is published annually by Climate Transparency, a global partnership of 14 climate research organisations and non-governmental organisations from the majority of the G20 countries, many from emerging economies. The report consists of 20 country profiles and a summary report.

The Nexus Report on Climate and Biodiversity

Policy Briefing #1/2020

The Nexus Report: Nature-based Solutions to the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis

Pushing the G20 towards a Net-Zero Emissions Economy: Country Profiles and Policy Recommendations
Policy Briefing #2/2020
“Achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era” and Webinar

This policy briefing summarises one of the most sophisticated global models on a very simple question: Can we actually still keep the global temperature increase below the dangerous benchmark of 1.5 °C? Is it technically, economically, and socially feasible? The short answer is: Yes! And we believe that this is not necessarily common knowledge.

We know what is at stake and what we have to do and what not. The broad consensus among scientists around the world offers crystal-clear conclusions. The Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) of the United Nations and the Paris Climate Agreement provide very clear guidance for future investments into new infrastructure or new power plants. Any governmental action to stimulate our economy must be first and foremost based on these goals. We can no longer accept governmental decisions suggesting a trajectory that clearly conflicts with what a resilient society and a healthy—and sustainable—economy would entail.

Therefore, this briefing serves as a seismograph for the implications of governmental decisions on how to “recover better”. Now, for the first time, an advanced climate-modelling framework, published in the book Achieving the Paris Climate Goals (APCAG), shows that it is possible to stay below 1.5 °C with widely available, rapidly scalable solutions.

The model is a breakthrough because it shifts the frame of the discussion—the key question is no longer “Can we?” but “Will we?”. Achieving 1.5 °C is now a choice, not a wish. We don’t need to wait for novel technologies; there is a clear pathway to success with meaningful, effective solutions that can be implemented immediately. Moreover, achieving the 1.5 °C goal will save trillions of dollars by avoiding climate change impacts and allow for a more rapid and sustainable economic recovery following the COVID-19 pandemic.

At a glance

The 1.5 °C model demonstrates:

- We can meet all of our energy needs with 100 % clean, renewable energy using existing technologies.
- Nature-based Solutions like forest restoration are crucial to drawing down atmospheric carbon, making the goal of 1.5 °C achievable.
- The transition to 100 % renewable energy will cost approximately USD 1.1 trillion per year—far less than we are paying now for our current fossil fuel–based system.

↗ Short movie of the F20 Policy Briefing - Achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era.
In the spirit of “More Resilience, Recovering Better”, F20 successfully held a four-day event, the Climate Solutions Week, 14–18 September 2020. Titled “Resilience and Recovery: Highlighting Solutions for the G20 on Climate and Sustainability”, the event covered topics such as “Shifting the Trillions and Sustainable Finance” and looked into the role of foundations and philanthropy. People from all parts of the world followed the event live via the F20 stream or watched the recorded sessions on YouTube. The online format—a result of the COVID-19 pandemic—went deliberately beyond a classical video-conference format and included several opportunities to contribute, including a chat function, a virtual coffee break, and separately moderated breakout sessions. All panel discussions, breakout sessions, and high-level interventions from around the world—including those from the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the German Minister of Finance—were broadcast live from a TV studio in Hamburg, Germany, and a studio at the headquarters of the King Khalid Foundation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.

F20 AND THE G20 PROCESS UNDER THE SAUDI ARABIAN PRESIDENCY

The F20 platform established a very trustful collaboration with its partner, the King Khalid Foundation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia. Princess Bessmah played a very supportive role as the F20 co-chair, and we had a constructive collaboration with the King Khalid Foundation’s team. The planned events were held virtually, and especially the F20 Climate Solutions Week—co-hosted by the King Khalid Foundation and supported by BMW Foundation Herbert Quandt and the German Federal Environmental Foundation (DBU)—was very well received. We finalised the F20 recommendations to the G20 at the end of the F20 Climate Solutions Week and issued several press releases and statements prior to the G20 summit.

F20 Climate Solutions Week

In the spirit of “More Resilience, Recovering Better”, F20 successfully held a four-day event, the Climate Solutions Week, 14–18 September 2020. Titled “Resilience and Recovery: Highlighting Solutions for the G20 on Climate and Sustainability”, the event covered topics such as “Shifting the Trillions and Sustainable Finance” and looked into the role of foundations and philanthropy. People from all parts of the world followed the event live via the F20 stream or watched the recorded sessions on YouTube. The online format—a result of the COVID-19 pandemic—went deliberately beyond a classical video-conference format and included several opportunities to contribute, including a chat function, a virtual coffee break, and separately moderated breakout sessions. All panel discussions, breakout sessions, and high-level interventions from around the world—including those from the Prime Minister of Bangladesh and the German Minister of Finance—were broadcast live from a TV studio in Hamburg, Germany, and a studio at the headquarters of the King Khalid Foundation in the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia.
TOPICS DISCUSSED WERE:

- **Shifting the Trillions and Sustainable Finance**
- **COVID-19 and the Climate Crisis: More Resilience and Recovering Better**
- **Climate, Biodiversity, and Food: Pathways for an Inclusive Approach**
- **Solutions for a Global Just Transition**
- **Recommendations of Engagement Groups for the G20**
- **The Voice of Foundations and Philanthropists in the Context of the G20**

A well-balanced mix of high-level keynote speeches, panel discussions, and animated videos as well as a broad variety of other contributions highlighted the existing and most urgent future solutions for a “Global Just Transition”. All participants displayed a great willingness to co-operate and took a clear stand to hold the G20 countries accountable.

Speakers included Hasina Wajed Prime Minister of Bangladesh, Olaf Scholz German Finance Minister, Bandar bin Muhammed Hamza Hajjar President of the Islamic Development, Naila Farouky from the Arabic Foundation Forum, Naina Batra CEO of the Asian Venture Philanthropy Network and Ronald Cohen from the Global Steering Group for Impact Investment. Ultimately, there was a clear understanding that philanthropists and foundations should play an ambitious role in “a transformation that leaves no one behind” and that they should address the challenges while being strong change agents themselves.
The four days concluded with fourteen detailed recommendations, which the F20 partner foundations shared with the heads of state, ministers of finance, and central bank governors of the G20 countries. The recommendations were headed by four overarching pledges. In one way or another, all interactive discussions of the Climate Solutions Week involved at least one of the four recommendations.

“G20 have an important role to play – ending fossil fuel subsidies can generate up to 2 trillion euro in assets for building economies based on renewables and drive forward a green recovery.”

MIKA OHBAYASHI, RENEWABLE ENERGY INSTITUTE AT THE F20 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS WEEK

“We are already experiencing the consequences of global warming and without urgent action to halt this warming, things will get much worse.”

MODI MWATSAMA, WELLCOME TRUST AT THE F20 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS WEEK

Overall, we achieved our objective of delivering the G20 recommendations, provoking a discussion, and displaying different views by high-level speakers from the sectors of philanthropy, politics, science, business, and finance. Prior to and during the event, social media channels were successfully deployed (like Twitter, Instagram, Facebook, and LinkedIn).
“Now is the time to reimagine the future and to act. Through a transition to a renewable based economy, we can foster a speedy and resilient economic recovery, while countering the problems and inequalities, driven by the continued fossil fuel use.”

FRANCESCO LA CAMERA, IRENA AT THE F20 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS WEEK

“Civil society needs to amplify their voices everywhere. We’re a force for change, for good change.”

PRINCESS NOUF BINT MUHAMMED, KING KHALID FOUNDATION AT THE F20 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS WEEK

“While the world’s attention is being consumed by COVID-19 there are bigger crises looming over the horizon and Climate Change is the biggest of them all.”

TONY CHAN, KING ABDULLAH UNIVERSITY OF SCIENCE AND TECHNOLOGY AT THE F20 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS WEEK
Interactive Poll during the F20 Climate Solutions Week, September 2020

DR. SABINE MAUDERER, GERMAN CENTRAL BANK
AT THE F20 CLIMATE SOLUTIONS WEEK

“We need to act better to recover from the COVID-19 pandemic and tackle climate change effectively. Financial institutions must be the drivers of the transformation and central banks can act as catalysts.”

The feedback of speakers, participants, and partners after the event was overwhelmingly positive regarding content as well as logistics, and there were numerous concrete proposals that we will pursue in the coming weeks and months. The Climate Solutions Week created the opportunity to deepen existing F20 networks, and many follow-up meetings were scheduled in order to continue discussions and to assess potential collaborations.
The G20 presidency of Italy for 2021 started on 1 December 2020. In connection with this, F20 established and strengthened a trustful working relationship with its Italian partner foundations, the Unipolis Foundation, the Cariplo Foundation, and the Italian sustainability network ASviS—and other stakeholders in Italy. Several virtual meetings were organised in October 2020 to coordinate and discuss joint activities in 2021.

The Unipolis Foundation from Bologna/Italy is now a member of the Steering Group, where it was represented in the beginning by Prof. Enrico Giovannini and his deputy Maria Luisa Parmigiani. Enrico became F20 co-chair as successor to Mika Obayashi on 1 December 2020. We would like to take this opportunity and thank Mika for being such a valuable co-chair to F20 during the Japanese G20 Presidency and until the end of 2020. As Enrico Giovannini was appointed Minister of Transport and Infrastructure in Mario Draghi’s cabinet in the Italian government in February 2021, he had to resign from his function as F20 co-chair. As a result, Maria Luisa Parmigiani succeeded him as member in the F20 steering group and as the new F20 co-chair and took office in April 2021.

In addition, F20 set up a working group of foundations from Italy and the UK with a particular focus on the COP26 presidency and the G20 presidency. This working group met for the first time in December.

### F20 CHRONICLES 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>JAN</th>
<th>Policy Briefing #1/2020 <em>Pushing the G20 towards a Net-Zero Emissions Economy: Country Profiles and Policy Recommendations</em></th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td>FEB</td>
<td>Virtual work relationship with the European Commission on green recovery and the European Green Deal</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAR</td>
<td>F20 open letter to Ursula von der Leyen</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F20 Article about Corona and Sustainability</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>APR</td>
<td>F20 statement to the postponed COP26</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>F20 statement to the Petersberg Climate Dialogue</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td></td>
<td>Recommendations for a green recovery in collaboration with the ICP Hub</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td>MAY</td>
<td>Joint letter to Chancellor Angela Merkel, supported by Klaus Milke as chair of F20</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>
JUN
Round table with Russian partners on “Climate and Sustainable Development after the Coronavirus Crisis: How will the World change?”, supported by F20, the Climate Partnership of Russia, and the Russian Carbon Fund

JUL
F20 recommendations to the G20 finance ministers and central bank governors

AUG
Preparations for the F20 Climate Solutions Week

SEP
F20 Climate Solutions Week
Policy Briefing #2/2020: Achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era
Short Video: Achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era
F20 recommendations to the G20 heads of state

OCT
Meetings with Italian stakeholders from politics, business, and philanthropy in preparation for the Italian G20 presidency

NOV
The Nexus Report: Nature-based Solutions to the Biodiversity and Climate Crisis
Press release on the climate and biodiversity nexus
Press release to the G20 heads of state
Press release on the G20 outcome

DEC
F20 Webinar on achieving the Paris Climate Goals in the COVID-19 Era
Meeting of F20 UK/Italy Taskforce
In 2020, Foundations Platform F20 comprised 67 partner foundations that contributed to the annual budget of the F20 Head Office. The Environmental Foundation Michael Otto is mandated with the financial administration of the F20 foundations platform. As in previous years, we would like to thank the Environmental Foundation Michael Otto for the active support and value the close cooperation over the last years.

The annual financial contribution of the foundations varies since each foundation decides how much to contribute to the annual budget. In addition to the regular contributions of the foundations, F20 was able to acquire additional funds for the F20 Climate Solutions Week and the F20 Nexus Report, for example. In general, the F20 Head Office and other expenses for political work are designed to be efficient and cost-conscious. The F20 chairs are not compensated for their work.

### Expenses 2020

<table>
<thead>
<tr>
<th>Expenses</th>
<th>Budget</th>
<th>Costs</th>
<th>Balance</th>
</tr>
</thead>
<tbody>
<tr>
<td><strong>Personnel F20 head office</strong></td>
<td>€187,000</td>
<td>€190,952</td>
<td>- €3,952</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Administration (IT, office costs, bookkeeping, etc.)</strong></td>
<td>€33,000</td>
<td>€23,307</td>
<td>€9,693</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Travel and accommodation (F20 head office and F20 chairs)</strong></td>
<td>€26,000</td>
<td>€7,222</td>
<td>€18,778</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Public relations work</strong></td>
<td>€60,000</td>
<td>€58,807</td>
<td>€1,193</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>F20 events</strong></td>
<td>€129,000</td>
<td>€82,540</td>
<td>€46,460</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Consultancy</strong></td>
<td>€10,000</td>
<td>€16,533</td>
<td>- €6,553.00</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Other</strong></td>
<td>€10,000</td>
<td>---</td>
<td>€10,000</td>
</tr>
<tr>
<td><strong>Total</strong></td>
<td>€455,000</td>
<td>€379,382.10</td>
<td>€75,617.90</td>
</tr>
</tbody>
</table>

### Balance Sheet

- **Total income from F20 cost contributions 2020**: €444,405.65
- **Total expenses 2020**: €379,382.10
- **Total balance 2020**: €65,023.55
- **Total balance 2019**: €71,353.29
- **Total balance**: €136,376.84

We are very pleased to confirm that we still have remaining financial means from previous years which we will use for the upcoming F20 activities. We have been economical over the past year: Due to the COVID-19 outbreak and travel restrictions, the costs for travel and accommodation significantly decreased. Also, we have consciously decided for a small but efficient F20 team and have managed to build up a solid reserve for future F20 activities.
In July 2020, the Steering Group members decided to extend the F20 project beyond the year 2020 and mandated the Chair and the F20 team with the next phase, from 2021 to 2023. The Steering Group voted unanimously. As a result, all partner foundations were contacted in order to extend the co-operation for another three years and continue the F20 foundations platform. The response rate was overwhelmingly positive, and the F20 team is delighted to continue its work.

As described at the opening of this annual report, 2021 will be an important “European” year for global politics on climate and the SDGs, with the UK and Italy hosting the G20, the G7, and COP26. It will also be an important year for the European Union, as it will be embarking on implementing the European Green Deal (EGD) combined with the COVID-19 recovery.

Being in the midst of simultaneous health and climate crises is challenging and shows that our global community is vulnerable. While COVID-19 is the most urgent crisis at present, challenging our day-to-day lives in every way, climate change remains the biggest threat for future generations. Ignoring the responsibility to mitigate these risks, especially in connection with global recovery efforts, is not an option. In fact, investing into what makes our societies more resilient and sustainable is an investment into the future. Economic and social recovery therefore has to be based on the premise of healthy and sustainable development. It must not lead to an increase in our vulnerability due to locked-in emissions, further loss of biodiversity, or even higher pollution levels. This is the choice we have: embarking on pathways leading towards a more sustainable, resilient, and healthy future with a global community that respects the planet’s boundaries. This global effort requires coordinated and joint action by political leaders at all levels, reaffirming the importance of multilateralism, including the UNFCCC process. Decision-making needs to be fully based on the principles laid out in the UN 2030 Agenda, the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), and the Paris Climate Agreement. More ambitious nationally determined contributions (NDCs) are imperative and must integrate a strong health focus so that they can become the action agenda for a better recovery from the coronavirus pandemic.

COP26 provides the opportunity to advocate for a shift towards a decade of action, increased ambition, and an integrated approach that takes health, biodiversity, and sustainability into account.

We are therefore very excited to work with our partners from Italy, including the Unipolis Foundation, the Cariplo Foundation, Compagnia di San Paolo, and the community foundation Fondazione di Comunità di Messina. These activities will build on our work and research in 2020 and follow up on our report on Nature-based Solutions and the interconnectedness of the climate change and biodiversity crises. We will also highlight the significance of empowering cities and communities to embark on a path towards sustainability and emphasise the particular role local philanthropy and community foundations have in adapting to and mitigating climate change.

We also look forward to establishing a new working group that will build on our initial work on the broad subject of Sustainable Finance. Together with our partners in Italy and the UK, we will closely engage with the UN’s climate change and the G20 processes.
Despite the pandemic, 2020 has been a positive and productive year for the Foundations Platform F20. F20 managed to adapt to the challenges related to the emergence of the global health crisis and to highlight the obvious links between COVID-19 and the climate crisis. This was also well illustrated by the high-level line-up and deeply engaging discussions at the F20 Climate Solutions Week with prominent speakers.

As for the G20 process, F20 was able to closely work with its Saudi Arabian partner foundation, publishing recommendations, policy briefings, and statements pertaining to the G20 presidency. Regarding the Italian G20 presidency in 2021, F20 strengthened its network and was able to establish partnerships with important stakeholders from civil society and politics in Italy.

Furthermore, F20 was able to evolve and break ground organisationally. The important decision to continue for the next years (2021–2023) was taken by the Steering Group. At the same time, the platform has been growing continuously. Several foundations joined as partners and helped to expand the diversity of the group, which we consider a big strength of F20.
THE F20 TEAM

The F20 Chair

Klaus Milke
Stiftung Zukunftsfähigkeit

Princess Bessmah bint Bader
King Khalid Foundation

Marisa Parmigiani
Unipolis Foundation

The F20 Head Office

Stefan Schurig
Secretary General
stefan.schurig@foundations-20.org

Moska Timar
Project Manager
moska.timar@foundations-20.org

Arian Okhovat
Digital Communications
arian.okhovat@foundations-20.org

Geeske Venance
Office Manager
geeske.venance@foundations-20.org

Anja Leetz
Senior Policy Officer
anja.leetz_ext@foundations-20.org

Karina Turan
Project Manager
karina.turan@foundations-20.org