

# Development that is Sustainable, Inclusive and Responsive

The G20 is the world's economic powerhouse. The G20, comprising 19 nations and the European Union, accounts for close to 65 per cent of the world's population, controls 84 per cent of the global economy and deals with 79 per cent of trade. However, this strength has come at a cost.

Unsustainable lifestyles, production and consumption patterns in G20 nations, coupled with huge disparities in prosperity, are driving the three environmental planetary crises of climate change, nature and biodiversity loss, and pollution and waste. For example, G20 nations emit around 80 per cent of the world's greenhouse gases, making them the biggest drivers of climate change. These crises are harming people, economies and the planet, undermining hard-won gains. We cannot allow them to keep intensifying. The articles in this issue of G20 Digest offer options on how to implement reforms that will dampen the crises and ensure a better, more sustainable future.

These articles focus on evidence-based actions: on, for example, sustainable infrastructure, nature-based solutions, green and resilient cities and energy challenges. A common thread is how to adjust lifestyles so that we can all remain within planetary boundaries. Such a focus aligns with the G20 Indian Presidency's theme of Lifestyles for Sustainable Development, which puts lifestyles and demand-side changes at the top of the agenda while recognising the important structural shifts in high impact sectors of the economy that will ultimately influence and shape choice sets and choice architecture.

Nobody is asking people and nations to sacrifice their own prosperity. On the contrary, people and nations – particularly the G20 – can only secure their own long-term prosperity, and give others the chance to enjoy similar opportunities, by acting to protect and restore nature and the climate.

The theme of the September G20 meeting in New Delhi – *One Earth. One Family. One Future* – speaks to the need for the G20 to deliver on development that is sustainable, inclusive and responsive. By agreeing on actions that back the Paris Agreement, the Global Biodiversity Framework and many other Multilateral Environmental Agreements, the G20 can lead the world towards this smarter development model – and the articles in this issue can guide the G20 towards providing leadership, which the world so desperately needs.

**Sachin Chaturvedi**  
Director General, RIS

**Inger Andersen**  
Executive Director, UNEP