

V20 Journey Communiqué for 2026 Dialogue Group Participants

A review of the communiqués and policy briefs from the inaugural Values 20 (V20) Engagement Group from the 2020 Saudi Arabia G20 Presidency, to the V20 edition from the 2025 South Africa G20 Presidency.

12 August 2026

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Preface

This is a formal output of the Values 20 (V20) Engagement Group that brings together the V20 story across the years.

The primary audience for this version is participants in the V20 2026 Dialogue Groups and its expected distribution is via the provision of pre-read materials.

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EXECUTIVE SUMMARY

Across its six editions - starting with Saudi Arabia (2020), through Italy (2021), Indonesia (2022), India (2023), Brazil (2024) and South Africa (2025) - the Values 20 (V20) Engagement Group has evolved from an expert practitioner community to a global contributor to multilateral policy development dialogue. This document provides a longitudinal meta-review of the V20's journey, tracing the enduring golden threads that have emerged and evolved throughout its successive editions.

The most prominent of those threads are **values-based leadership, values-based education (VBE), and ecological stewardship**, developing as key themes year-on-year. Other enduring core themes are digital inequalities and systemic stewardship. They all have in common that they develop values-based approaches, specific stated values or a nation's cultural heritage, into precise design considerations and operational parameters for public policy.

The V20's journey extends beyond the boundaries of annual communiqué delivery, across four key dimensions. First, it has established an **institutional legacy** through the creation of new institutions and influencing existing organizations. Second, it drives **thought-leadership legacy through** its thematic continuities that form multi-year bridges between policy areas. Third, it **creates conditions for shared legacy** through sustained inter-presidency collaboration between V20 editions. Finally, it uniquely channels **values and cultural heritage** so a nation's local cultural identity and indigenous, ancient wisdom are integrated into global policy frameworks.

This meta-review highlights G20 priority topic areas that have not yet featured in a V20 edition. This includes blind spots where the V20 has historically maintained a cautious distance - for example with topics related to security architectures and supply chain resilience - and new frontiers for the V20 to influence senior G20 leaders - for example through the robust measurement of values and the integration of values awareness into the G20 Finance Track.

This document serves as a foundational briefing for the 2026 V20 Dialogue Groups. By providing a structured historical taxonomy and a forward-looking analysis of V20 coverage against recurring G20 priorities, it equips Dialogue Group participants with background information to help with their preparation for upcoming discussions.

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SECTION 1: THE LONGITUDINAL DEVELOPMENT OF VALUES 20 (2020-2025)

1.1 Foundations

Established during the Group of Twenty (G20) Presidency of the Kingdom of Saudi Arabia, the inception of the V20 addressed an operational opportunity within the international policy development architecture - the deliberate use of values. Historically, the G20 worked through macroeconomic stabilization frameworks, tracking Gross Domestic Product (GDP) growth, market efficiencies, and trade flows. While these metrics are accepted to represent global growth and technical innovation, international institutions increasingly recognize that long-term social cohesion, institutional legitimacy, and planetary limits require dedicated focus alongside traditional financially-oriented data. The V20 was established to provide a multilateral home for this exploration, framing shared human values as operational parameters for public policy with an intention to develop analytical depth for G20 stakeholders.

Under the inaugural theme, "The Value of Values," the 2020 Saudi Arabia V20 demonstrated how an international group of values practitioners can collaborate productively with official G20 Secretariats, matching the formal requirements and conventions of G20 engagement groups for state-level policy briefing. Facing the severe economic shocks and institutional disruptions brought about by the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the inaugural year established a baseline methodology to publish a formal communiqué and host a global summit. These deliverables featured evidence-based policy analyses that demonstrated how systemically integrating values can help evolve the efficacy and resilience of policy design for the priority topics and systemic economic shocks addressed by a G20 Presidency.

As the V20 rotated through six consecutive editions - Saudi Arabia, Italy, Indonesia, India, Brazil and South Africa - it built permanent multi-year bridges between the policy strategies of the Global North and Global South, focused on human-centric, sustainable development narratives. This long-term trajectory tells the story of an institutional journey from early conceptual design to formalized, evidence-based policy influence within global multilateral governance.

Table 1: V20 Journey in Headlines

Year	G20 Presidency	Theme	Headline
2020	Saudi Arabia	The Value of Values	Established the foundational strategic narrative; established the inaugural evidence-based policy briefing standards and formal Secretariat communication standards for international community mobilization.
2021	Italy	Values in Action	Resourceful alignment of thematic pillars of Integrity, Solidarity, and Sharing in the context of global recovery from Covid-influenced socio-economic conditions, with reinforced emphasis on youth.
2022	Indonesia	Values at the Center	Global South and sustainability focus, mapping to a compass-inspired model of four quadrants (Nature, Economy, Well-being, Society) alongside the creation of the Values Steering Committee to audit historical values alignment of the G20.

Year	G20 Presidency	Theme	Headline
2023	India	LEAD with Values	Operationalized native cultural concepts into global governance themes by framing <i>Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam</i> ("One Earth, One Family, One Future") and <i>Sewa</i> (selfless service) as experiential curriculum designs for youth leadership and citizenship activation for great sustainability challenges ahead.
2024	Brazil	Values Visions	Positioned Planet Earth as a distinct G20 stakeholder participant ('G21 Model'); with prominent alignment of task forces with indigenous wisdom, planetary rights and innovations such as crowdsourcing content related to AI ethics, whilst presenting concrete values-based policy blueprints.
2025	South Africa	Living Values	Elevated the academic robustness of the evidence base for values in policy development codified in the communiqué, integrating Ubuntu and themes for South Africa's national transformation in strict alignment with G20 presidency themes of Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainable Development.

1.2 Structured historical taxonomy of the six V20 editions

1.2.1 Saudi Arabia (The Value of Values, 2020)

Strategic Narrative, Evidence-Based Foundation.

The foundational baseline established during the inaugural V20 cycle demonstrated how values operate as empirical parameters for policy design. Facing the acute structural disruptions and institutional pressures brought about by the onset of the global COVID-19 pandemic, the 2020 presidency systematically aligned its strategic outputs with official governance tracks to create an enduring method for V20 multilateral policy engagement.

The defining contribution of this initial cycle was its rigorous empirical anchoring; by integrating behavioral science insights and economics, the framework demonstrated that values-based policy directly mitigates risks and stabilizes institutional systems, for example in response to global shocks. This inaugural architecture initiated several critical themes that serve as the narrative threads connecting all six editions of the engagement group.

Values-based leadership and institutional trust: the 2020 cycle set the conceptual groundwork for an important anchor for the V20 - that values-based and ethically-driven senior leadership behaviors directly influence organizational efficacy and policy outcomes.

Transition toward systemic stewardship: introducing "Systemic Stewardship" challenged traditional short-termism and corporate conventions focused on quarterly financial outputs, and established stewardship as an outcome from being values-driven.

Pragmatic values-driven action: positioning values as being actively enacted, rather than merely spoken, directly addressed the commonly heard criticism that values are theoretical. This inaugural framing provided a platform for each V20 edition to build from the starting point of values being actionable.

The Saudi edition successfully demonstrated that values-based policy briefs and recommendations could meet the strict reporting conventions of state-level secretariats, creating a professional template for international community mobilization.

1.2.2 Italy (Values in Action, 2021)

Resourceful Adaptation, Reinforcing Youth Focus.

The 2021 Italian G20 Presidency operated under conditions dominated by the peak of the global pandemic and accompanying attempts at recovery. To guide public policy through the lens of values, this cycle featured a structured tripartite architecture organized across three distinct spheres: integrity within the personal sphere to navigate trade-offs between self-interest and collective interest; solidarity within the public sphere to build unity and mutual care across groups; and sharing within the cultural sphere to govern the sustainable use and distribution of tangible and intangible resources across regions and generations. This structural tri-pillar framework aligned V20 with the central G20 priorities of People, Planet, and Prosperity.

The 2021 cycle was an evolutionary bridge formally embedding the core thematic threads into specific multilateral policy discourse.

Values-based education (VBE) thread: the Italian cycle featured the integration of the V20 outputs into international educational targets, explicitly mandating a partnership with UNESCO to institutionalize SDG 4: Quality Education, specifically Target 4.7 (by 2030 ensure that all learners acquire the knowledge and skills needed to promote sustainable development, including, among

others, through education for sustainable development and sustainable lifestyles, human rights, gender equality, promotion of a culture of peace and non-violence, global citizenship and appreciation of cultural diversity and of culture's contribution to sustainable development).

It proposed a strategic education task force to serve as a global clearinghouse for values-based pedagogical content and best practices to combat educational poverty. Simultaneously, the text introduced the care economy as a critical macroeconomic variable, calling for national legislation to define, codify, and redistribute paid and unpaid care-work across public and private sectors. This directly anticipated the specific out-of-school youth retention blueprints generated in the 2024 V20.

Measurement and data thread: the 2021 communiqué introduced concepts such as government acting as a sophisticated radar to discover, validate, and diffuse governance lessons from civil society. By recommending the adoption of permanent repositories, benchmarking, and independent peer-review mechanisms in collaboration with academia, Italy positioned data-driven approaches to track institutional legitimacy. This combined the inaugural theme of institutional trust with the need to be evidence-based - a detail that repeated each year and traced back to Italy.

Ecological transition thread: the 2021 cycle positioned environmental policy closer to precise behavioral modification models than conservation goals, advocating for targeted value-based message campaigns and financial mechanisms - including the deployment of a "super green fund" designed in direct consultation with civil society - to incentivize ecological integrity. This approach is arguably a conceptual stepping stone for the multi-quadrant Sustainability Compass Model in Indonesia in 2022 and the proposed legal recognition of planetary rights under the 2024 "G21 framework" concept.

1.2.3 Indonesia (Values at the Center, 2022)

Systemic Sustainability Compass, Data-Driven Auditing of G20 Institutional Values.

The 2022 Indonesia V20 edition marked a key milestone by introducing localized socio-cultural frameworks designed to address core G20 priorities - Global Health Architecture, Digital Transformation, and Sustainable Energy Transition - through a uniquely Indonesian lens. A core structural innovation, modelled on a compass, was used to achieve this. The *Sustainability Compass Model* (adapted from an education community and movement), mapped global policy challenges across four distinct quadrants: Nature (N), Economy (E), Wellbeing (W), and Society (S). By applying this holistic lens, the V20 cycle had a distinct Global South identity which influenced the evolution of the core thematic threads.

Ecological transition thread: under the Nature quadrant of the sustainability compass, recommendations explicitly advocated for the integration of the United Nations landmark framework: *System of Environmental-Economic Accounting—Ecosystem Accounting* (UN, 2021) to formally calculate natural capital. This thread would develop and manifest as India's 2023 "Dharmic ESG Index" proposal and Brazil's 2024 "G21 Model" that personified Planet Earth as a G20 participant.

Digital inequalities thread: recommendations for a strict "Do No Harm" policy protocol for cross-border digital actors proposed values-led data audits, and internal record keeping to prevent risks of digital platforms causing social harm, manipulation and discrimination. There is a direct connection from this origin point to India's 2023 "AI Privacy by Design" recommendations and South Africa's 2025 systemic critique of risks of AI inequalities.

Values-based education (VBE) thread: the Indonesian communiqué called upon G20 nations to commit to higher public spending on education as a fixed percentage of GDP to standardize curriculum delivery. There is continuity from this point with the out-of-school youth retention blueprints generated in Brazil in 2024 and topics related to education inequity and inequality in South Africa in 2025.

A core innovation of this year was the inclusion of the *Values Steering Committee*, introducing an evidence base with accompanying visualisations to map historical G20 Declarations against the UN Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs), providing a data-driven baseline for tracking G20 institutional values such as stability, resilience, inclusion, and multilateralism.

1.2.4 India (LEAD with Values, 2023)

Cultural Scaffolding, Selfless Service Pedagogies.

The 2023 India V20 mobilized immense civil society energy and expanded the group's communication impact by leveraging multimedia best practices. The unique definitive contribution of this cycle was the systemic translation of native cultural philosophies into formalized global governance recommendations, channeled directly through youth education, leadership mobilization, and community empowerment. Rather than treating these native traditions as isolated concepts, India framed *Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam* ("One Earth, One Family, One Future") and *Sewa* ("selfless service") as active, structural design influences for global citizenship education, institutional social responsibility, and youth-led development models.

The 2023 cycle weaved the V20's core thematic threads into highly specific multilateral policy mechanisms.

Values-based education (VBE) thread: India transitioned the educational policy dialogue from Italy's 2021 focus on SDG 4 (Quality Education) and Indonesia's 2022 public spending recommendations into concrete experiential curricula. Under the Education Task Force, the 2023 communiqué recommended G20 nations prioritize the integration of Social and Emotional Learning (SEL), Service Learning (SL), and Global Citizenship Education (GCED) directly into national curricula, using *Sewa* as an experiential pedagogical tool. Critically, India accelerated institutionalization by proposing a formal legal instrument - the "*Universal Declaration of Values-Based Education*" - to be collaboratively composed by the G20 Troika in 2023 (Indonesia, India, and Brazil) to secure binding implementation loops for SDG Target 4.7.

Ecological transition thread: Advancing the environmental accounting topic from Indonesia's 2022 focus on natural capital data, the 2023 Environment Task Force championed the *Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)* movement and recommended a corporate accountability mechanism called the Dharmic ESG Index. This index reframed Environmental, Social, and Governance scoring by utilizing the native concept of 'duty' (*Dharma*) to appraise business practices. This created a bridge from Indonesia the year before to Brazil in the following year, through the personification of the planet as a participant in the G20.

Digital inequalities thread: the 2023 Employment and Entrepreneurship Task Force recommended specific parameters for "AI Privacy by Design" to protect consumer data security, empower digital entrepreneurs, and establish a fair value exchange in technology ecosystems. This intervention aligns with the AI Ethics Task Force that followed in the Brazil cycle and South Africa's 2025 structural critique of AI inequalities.

Values-based leadership and institutional trust thread: under the overarching theme of "LEAD with Values," India defined effective leadership as an explicit balance of **L**eadership Skills, **E**thics, **A**ltruism, and **D**ecisive Action (to make up the acronym LEAD). This is the foundation of a narrative that links proactive identification of shared values of communities to behavioral habits that drive impact. There is a direct link from this position to active citizenship recommendations from the South Africa cycle in 2025.

By formalizing Sewa and Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam into explicit curriculum recommendations and proposing the Dharmic ESG Index, the 2023 cycle demonstrated that localized Global South cultural heritage can be engineered into universal, tangible policy instruments for multilateral governance.

1.2.5 Brazil (Values Visions, 2024)

Actionable Inclusivity, Indigenous Influences and Planetary Rights.

2024 V20 leadership delivered a balanced model of values-first policy guidance and real-world best practices. Aligning directly with the national G20 agenda of eradicating hunger, poverty, and structural inequality under the motto "Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet," the Brazil V20 uniquely established methods to amplify indigenous wisdom, non-mainstream voices and vulnerable communities from the Global South within the V20's recurring themes.

The technical outputs included several notable innovations: the AI and Digital Ethics Task Force deployed a crowdsourced chapter to gather creative and non-traditional perspectives for a technical theme; task force leadership and written outputs integrated indigenous knowledge systems into modern educational policy; and it personified Planet Earth as a G20 stakeholder, the metaphorical 21st member of the G20. Most critically, Brazil delivered precise policy designs, including a detailed blueprint for returning 9.8 million out-of-school youth and young parents to high school education systems.

Ecological transition thread: Brazil advanced the natural capital tracking initiated by Indonesia in 2022 and the duty-based evaluation models proposed by India in 2023 by introducing an inspirational philosophical paradigm: the "G21 Model". This model personified Planet Earth as a distinct, legitimate stakeholder participant in all multilateral economic decisions, asserting that intergenerational responsibility for the planet requires mapping short- and long-term environmental impacts of infrastructure and industrial planning for review by the planet herself. To inspire and enable this, the task force actively combined contemporary knowledge with the deep-rooted traditional knowledge systems of originarian peoples.

Values-based education (VBE) thread: the Brazilian cycle successfully built from Italy's 2021 SDG4 efforts and India's 2023 "Universal Declaration of Values-Based Education" into precise social policy design. To address the crisis of 9.8 million out-of-school youth and young parents in Brazil, the Evolutionary Education Task Force reported a detailed operational blueprint for high school return, retention, and completion utilizing flexible, state-funded night-time education networks. This pragmatic intervention successfully bridged the gap between basic capacity-building and structural equity.

Digital inequalities thread: the AI and Digital Ethics Task Force gathered creative, non-traditional perspectives from across the global community to balance refined corporate interests and early emerging specialist technical themes, explicitly warning that evaluating AI solely for productivity might accelerate radical shifts in workforce planning and disenfranchise workers in every sector.

This focus on algorithmic fairness directly set the stage for South Africa's 2025 critique of risks of AI inequalities in a new era of tech-titan governance.

1.2.6 South Africa (Living Values, 2025)

Academic Rigor, Driver for National Transformation.

The 2025 South Africa V20 edition elevated the global benchmark for academic inquiry and synthesis, establishing a new multilateral standard for the structural robustness of core deliverables. The structural design to explore the South African G20 Presidency themes - Solidarity, Equality, and Sustainable Development - was led with research excellence and delivered by research-oriented teams.

To achieve this unprecedented academic quality and ensure a formal, highly evidence-based communiqué, the structural design intentionally shifted away from open, unconstrained delegate drafting. While this trade-off technically reduced direct participant content modification, it successfully produced a rigorous, context-sensitive public policy document capable of directly engaging G20 ministerial working groups.

The 2025 cycle functioned as the strongest academic and programmatic V20 intervention to date, anchoring the group's thematic threads into rigorous, policy commentary.

Values-based education (VBE) thread: South Africa progressed the V20's educational lineage into a deep systemic redesign. The 2025 communiqué integrated trauma-informed pedagogy and epistemic diversity into national educational delivery frameworks. It moved beyond standardized testing metrics to treat human dignity and equity as performance standards, designing explicit pathways to dismantle exclusionary academic hierarchies to help rebuild the social fabric of communities.

Digital inequalities thread: driving the variety of data governance topics covered over years to a logical conclusion, South Africa V20 leadership delivered a rigorous socio-economic critique of data capitalism, outlining how behavior-modification algorithms managed by a small group of centralized tech oligarchs distort public information and disrupt democratic processes. Recommendations demanded the institutionalization of values-driven AI governance frameworks that apply equity and fair process as non-negotiable regulatory filters - a fitting conclusion for the related commentaries of each V20 edition.

Ecological transition thread: South Africa positioned ecological stewardship, and relational wellbeing, as primary economic indicators - again, a fitting conclusion for linked topic development in preceding years. Most notably, the 2025 cycle linked environmental protection directly to global financial systems, proposing specific recommendations for a UN-led tax convention, binding commitments to combat "SDG-washing," and comprehensive debt-relief swaps for climate-vulnerable states.

1.3 Living legacies: enduring post-V20 footprints

To fully understand the longitudinal development of the V20, its role beyond annual communiqués and summits needs to be examined - specifically its role accelerating and shaping policy convergence. Each V20 edition fosters a living legacy that endures and compounds beyond the G20 presidency cycle timelines, in four main ways.

1.3.1 Institutional legacy

The V20 is a catalyst for institutional architecture via integration of values-based approaches into operational activities, primary research, and strategic planning across public and private sectors. This institutional legacy manifests in two distinct forms: the creation of new, purpose-built vehicles and the strategic strengthening of established lead organizations.

For two V20 editions, new, values-driven entities were established. Following the Italy V20 (2021), Ve3 (Values in Entrepreneurship, Education and Environment) was launched to operationalize its theme of “Values in Action”. Its inaugural program, Co-Generazione, is a research-led initiative designed to bridge intergenerational divides in the workplace and broader society through evidence-based dialogue.

The South Africa V20 (2025) led to the formation of Living Values, an organization dedicated to operationalizing the V20’s outcomes into scalable programs for social cohesion and civic education. Living Values builds from its outstanding academic foundations to bridge the translational gap between research and practice.

Complementing this, lead organizations for each V20 cycle create a legacy that directly layers onto their existing identity and strengths. This institutional integration results in values-focused work becoming a clear influence on core workstreams. Starting with the Misk Foundation in Saudi Arabia, the link between values and its core purpose - youth empowerment and development - endures across multiple workstreams and global engagement efforts.

Similarly in India, tGELF (The Global Education and Leadership Foundation) integrated learning and engagement from its V20 leadership into established long-term programs. For example, directly influencing work with schools across India to engage young people on leadership, ethics, citizenship and service. Specifically, the values championed by V20 were translated into meaningful learning experiences for students.

In Brazil after 2024, ValuesMove created bridges from the V20 to Brazil’s hosting of COP30 and Brazil’s G20 legacy commitment to the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, providing a clear example of V20 as a direct participant in major multilateral policy efforts.

1.3.2 Thought-leadership legacy

Beyond the institutional legacy of the V20 and its structural foundations, the golden threads that connect the annual V20 editions through themes and topics represent the thought-leadership legacy of the V20 journey so far. The most prominent golden threads - values-based leadership, values-based education and ecological transition - have evolved from edition-to-edition, codified via communiqués and policy briefs into a unique thought-leadership position in the G20 multilateral landscape.

The living legacy of values-based leadership is its establishment as a foundation for organizational, sector, national and multinational governance. In other words, values-based leadership transforms values from abstract socio-cultural aspirations into strategic, decision-

support tools. By embedding values into the core of governance, values-based leadership becomes a primary mechanism for navigating complex policy trade-offs and driving policy outcomes.

The legacy for values-based leadership originates from the exploration of leadership values on organizational culture, resilience, and integrity during the Saudi Arabia V20. Each V20 edition developed and refined key concepts, from general behavioral ethics to advocating for specific frameworks that align with G20 Presidency themes and commitments. By the 2025 South Africa V20, values-based leadership focused on the values needed to address profound and systemic challenges such as structural inequity and corruption, emphasizing the need to be practical and precise, and not treat leadership values such as trust, as intangible ideals.

The living legacy of values-based education (VBE) is its establishment as a driver for national transformation via systemic pedagogical methodology. In other words, values-based education is a practical, powerful engine for societal change, ready to be applied to the most urgent systemic challenges addressed by G20 Presidencies. The origin of this thread is foundational calls for values literacy in education policy design. It evolved into concepts and best practices for curriculum design and implementation, deeply rooted in cultural and natural heritage, followed by policy best practices to address specific communities of learners in need.

By the 2025 South Africa V20, this thread was enriched by integrating trauma-informed pedagogy and epistemic diversity, demonstrating the V20's intellectual footprint in education directly addresses the holistic rebuilding of social fabrics - integrating local cultural wisdom and dismantling exclusionary educational methods.

The living legacy of the ecological transition thread is a values-based and radical shift toward structural, planetary-level accountability that integrates concepts of personhood and stewardship for natural resources into economic governance. In other words, the V20 has re-framed nature: moving it from a commodity to be exploited - the established multilateral view - into a stakeholder to be protected.

The origin of this thread is foundational calls for individual citizens and producers to mitigate ecological risks. The V20's unique thought leadership contribution was to move the ecological discourse beyond conservation into practical policy concepts for planetary rights and systemic accountability. By the 2025 South Africa V20, this thread was refined to emphasize ecological stewardship - integrating Ubuntu to challenge extractive models in favor of communal wellbeing and the protection of natural resources.

1.3.3 Creating conditions for shared legacy

A definitive feature of the V20's living legacy is the commitment of previous V20 editions to support the handover and subsequent activities of the next cycle. The experience and success of one presidency help create the conditions for shared success for the next. Over six editions, this can be thought of as a spiral model of support, with positive feedback loops driving wider and deeper support year on year.

The structured transition from Italy in 2021 to Indonesia marked a pivotal moment that created a deliberate overlap where the transfer of the V20 mandate and its associated resources contributed to the launch materials for the 2022 edition. This positioned Saudi Arabia, Italy and Indonesia V20 editions in a chain that featured a repeatable structure for passing on V20 leadership and set the tone for one V20 edition's legacy becoming infrastructure for a successor.

This collaborative intention evolved into the “Road to G20 Brazil” in 2024, a series of satellite events led by previous V20 editions to develop international involvement for Brazil. Leading the Road to G20 Brazil events served as direct extensions of Italy and India V20 legacy efforts, and created continuity between V20 editions. These collaborative events showcase the V20 commitment to shared legacy, enabling each successive V20 Chair to build from the success and experiences of their predecessors.

1.3.4 Values and cultural heritage for unique legacy

A differentiated feature of V20’s living legacy is the unique manner in which a nation’s ‘values heritage’ informs discourse and inspires highly innovative policy framework design. Rather than relying on a standard policy template, V20 editions have demonstrated that global values can be interpreted through the lens of local identity and ancient wisdom.

The India V20 anchored its policy design recommendations in the philosophy of Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam (“One Earth, One Family, One Future”). This provided a holistic framework for global citizenship, while the concept of Sewa (“selfless service”) was presented as a critical pedagogical tool, integrating ethics, altruism and community responsibility directly into education systems to foster sustainable citizenship.

Sewa has longstanding roots in Indian education policy. The role and influence of the India V20 was to converge values and cultural heritage with education policy development. V20 elevated Sewa internationally as a framework for service-learning, and also values-based leadership and active citizenship; and Sewa continues to influence national education policy implementation in India. This is not specifically caused by V20, but converging values with an established area of focus for policy development demonstrates the continuing practical relevance of values.

Similarly, the South Africa V20 brought the profound communal ethic of Ubuntu to the global stage. Ubuntu represents shared humanity, responsibility towards each other and interdependence between individuals, communities, societies and the natural world. The South Africa V20 demonstrated the application of South African values and cultural heritage to the South Africa G20 presidency themes as follows:

- **Solidarity:** Ubuntu supports shared responsibility and commitment to the common good.
- **Equality:** Ubuntu supports inclusion, social capital and community resilience.
- **Sustainable Development:** Ubuntu challenges individualistic, competitive and extractive models and provides an ethic of relational wellbeing and ecological stewardship.

Brazil and Indonesia both harnessed indigenous, traditional and ancient wisdom to present unique cultural governance and structures to ground their sustainability and ecological transition discourse in deep cultural roots. Indonesia’s Sustainability Compass Model and Brazil’s “G21 Model” - which personified Planet Earth as a legitimate participant in multilateral economic decisions - moved beyond abstract ideas of cultural heritage, and anchored modern environmental policy in the deep cultural roots of their respective nations.

These are evidence points for the V20 achieving its most original contributions to global policy development when it bridges universal values with cultural heritage and natural heritage. This highlights how global values are effectively realized when interpreted through the lens of local identity, transforming the V20 into a diverse community of international wisdom rather than a generic repository of policy advisory content.

SECTION 2: ANALYSIS OF GAPS AND STRATEGIC MULTILATERAL OPPORTUNITIES

2.1 Gaps and structural opportunities for expanding V20 coverage

A critical diagnostic review of historical V20 content reveals gaps where task forces have not addressed topics that might be reasonably expected to feature in a G20 engagement group. The V20 can adjust its traditional focus areas to address systemic blind spots, which may support its transition to an official engagement group and recognition as a pillar of global governance.

2.1.1 Values in peace, security and stability track

The V20 has historically maintained a cautious position regarding state-level security architectures, active conflict boundaries, and defense policy. During the period V20 has existed, state-level conflicts and threats to the rules-based international order have featured prominently in G20 Leaders' Declarations, but V20 has not featured a task force or policy brief related to defense, security or conflict resolution.

This might reasonably be interpreted as highly appropriate; the conventions of multilateral security frameworks might not usually include values experts and practitioners. However, it is also arguable that omitting defense and security creates a structural blind spot, and limits V20 coverage of the world's most urgent policy challenges.

Furthermore, several V20 editions refer to ongoing international conflict directly influencing the socio-economic foundations required for values-based multilateralism:

- As stated in the Brazil V20 communiqué, "in 2023, the number of conflicts involving states totaled 59, the highest number ever recorded since data collection began in 1946".
- The South Africa V20 communiqué explicitly highlighted the proliferation of armed conflicts, the rise of hybrid models of modern warfare, and the intersection between state instability and frontier technology risks.

V20 could develop engagement and recommendations for values-driven conflict resolution, ethical deterrence, and state-level security metrics linked to values, culture and national character. Introducing a dedicated task force for Values in Peace, Security and Stability might bridge this gap, enabling connection to the likely full scope of the G20's stabilization discussions. To build immediate relevance, this task force might address digital infrastructure vulnerabilities that allow behavior-modification algorithms to weaken democratic legitimacy. This is a logical and linear extension of a starting point provided in the South Africa V20 communiqué.

2.1.2 Resolving the data robustness and measurement challenge

International policymakers and G20 stakeholders consistently note that values-driven policy recommendations require robust and specific measurement approaches. While the V20 has generated highly innovative, qualitative, and academic content backed up where possible with hard data, the absence of accurate best practices or robust standardized methods represent legitimate weaknesses.

Centralized evaluation systems across all G20 nations are proposed in multiple V20 editions but there is currently no clear route for such an outcome. Arguably this structural variance highlights a critical limitation in the V20's route to being recognised as an official G20 engagement group. More specifically, cultural concepts (such as Sewa or Ubuntu) need to translate into scalable, verifiable performance indicators that can be compared and contrasted.

To bridge this gap ahead of future G20 cycles, the V20 needs to convert values into quantifiable policy tools. A clear opportunity for the 2027 UK G20 Presidency is to task the V20 with the requirement to report on approaches that can deliver mature, highly reliable, evidence-based measurement approaches for policy design and development. For example, creating a "GDP for values" might enable G20 finance ministers and sherpas to evaluate public policy outcomes using values.

Driving this empirical transition will help G20 nations adopt Key Performance Indicators (KPIs) for values, quantify social return on investment (SROI) for policy interventions, influence state-level public procurement, and incorporate values-driven criteria into multilateral impact assessments. This will solidify the V20's position as an indispensable, evidence-based pillar of global governance.

2.1.3 Values-based supply chain resilience

Within traditional G20 frameworks, supply chain resilience is addressed through a logistics lens, focusing on physical assets such as transnational maritime corridors, freight networks, and deep-tier logistics infrastructure. However, as demonstrated during recent global shocks, supply chains do not fail only as a result of infrastructure; they fail due to breakdowns in institutional trust, labor exploitation, and ineffective crisis governance - which arguably can all be linked to values.

There has not yet been a V20 task force examining values and the operational instruments used to address the world's most urgent resource delivery crises. This represents a blind spot for V20 because topics such as global food security have been covered without addressing the role of values in improved supply chain security.

Building directly from the 2024 Brazil edition - which aligned its key messages with the G20 legacy commitment to eradicate hunger, poverty, and structural inequality - the V20 can explore a values-based food security framework. With explicit alignment with Brazil's efforts with the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, this will unite recurring V20 golden threads such as values-based leadership, with specific issues such as labor standards and workforce development, to enable values-driven supply chain resilience.

A specific entry point for the V20 might be the recommendation of values-based criteria for multilateral impact assessments of international food supply chains, examining the role of values in procurement, ethical sourcing and resource allocation and movement, particularly in response to systemic shocks such as closed supply lines in a global crisis. This will help establish the case for values applied to supply chains because they depend on human behavioral constants and institutional trust.

2.1.4 Aging societies and population-based digital health transformation

Since its inception, including early collaboration with the Youth 20 (Y20) in Saudi Arabia, the V20 journey has maintained a strong, consistent focus on youth mobilization, early childhood education, and out-of-school populations. However, a profound demographic gap exists regarding the opposite pressure facing major G20 economies: rapidly aging populations and the accompanying structural strain on national healthcare systems and the corresponding care economy.

While past V20 communiqués have referenced telehealth and honored the wisdom of experience, the V20 has not yet featured a dedicated task force to develop actionable policy recommendations for aging populations. This omission represents a critical blind spot. Just as the V20 advocates for

empowering youth leaders, it can establish frameworks that leverage the knowledge, social capital, and dignity of older generations.

A high-impact entry point for the V20 is to champion values-driven digital health transformation and silver-economy governance. Modern population-based digital health requires the identification and management of at-risk populations. However, the V20 has yet to offer policy direction to support this - or to address informal family caregivers, who are so easily overlooked in digital transformation programmes.

Values-based frameworks are needed to enable the activation of values in digital health topics, from living with dementia to the emergence of genomic medicine. Just as values-based education frameworks shape curriculum design for children, a values-based digital health framework can help ensure the inevitable advancement of technology in health and care services honors intergenerational wisdom, while alleviating the fiscal pressures of demographic aging across G20 nations.

2.1.5 Values awareness for the G20 Finance Track

To date, the V20 has not directly influenced the G20 Finance Track - specifically the Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors who represent macroeconomic policy. While past V20 communiqués (notably Saudi Arabia 2020 and South Africa 2025) introduced recommendations on international financial institution reform, anti-corruption and debt relief, these outputs did not break through into the core Finance Track agenda.

To overcome the persistent critique that values-based recommendations are peripheral to hard-edged macroeconomic decision-making, the V20 must adopt the precise institutional language and conventions used by treasury officials and central bankers. V20 can establish a task force with a name such as the Sovereign Integrity Track that speaks the language of G20 Finance Ministers to frame and develop values-based recommendations on topics such as public procurement integrity, curbing illicit financial flows, and debt-sustainability ethics. The strategic purpose and focus of the track could be the promotion of values-based leadership in finance leaders, enabling extension of one of the V20 golden threads to a new stakeholder group.

Ends.