

## DA Positions Policy Alternatives to Development at THINK20 Inception Conference



Task Force 3 discussing the theme of LiFE, Resilience, and Wellbeing during the breakout session

India formally assumed the G20 Presidency on 1 December, 2022. As its 'Ideas Bank', Think20 (or t20) witnessed policy think tanks and experts from across the globe discussing cross-cutting solutions to tackle challenges such as climate change and food security, in the Inception Conference on 13–14 January, 2023 at Hotel Hyatt Regency, New Delhi.

Earlier in January, Think20 released a global [Call for Policy Brief Abstracts](#) on seven broader themes, representing its seven task forces. Development Alternatives Group responded to the call with five submissions (leading four of these) in collaboration with our global partners (Green Economy Coalition, International Hydropower Association, and Dr Gunter Pauli from the Blue Economy). These included-

1. Assessing Investments in Nature through an SDG-Aligned Global Monitoring, Evaluation and Learning Framework
2. Sustainable Consumption and Production - Efficiency and Sufficiency Imperatives Towards Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE)
3. Developing Regional Cooperation for Industrial Transition: Towards Water Conservation with Stone Paper
4. Standards to Augment Investments in Sustainable Hydropower in G20 Countries
5. Climate Mainstreaming and Embedded Green Transition Policies

These submissions spanned over **Task Force 3 (TF-3) – LiFE, Resilience & Values for Wellbeing, Task Force 4 – Refuelling Growth: Clean Energy and Green Transition, and Task Force 6 – Accelerating Achievements to SDGs: Exploring New Pathways to Fulfill the 2030 Agenda.**

The Inception Conference – the first formal convening of the Think20 under India’s G20 Presidency, not only set the context in terms of problem statement and its relevance for India under each of the task force, but during the breakout sessions, also reflected adequately on the diversity of the ideas received in the form of abstracts. **In alignment with the abstract submissions, as the Co-Chair of Task Force 3, Dr Ashok Khosla (Founder and Chairman, Development Alternatives Group) effectively positioned the ideas of sufficiency and efficiency in consumption.** The range of discussions covered the following work streams of TF-3:-

1. LiFE and Promotion of Sustainable Consumption: The workstream covers themes of Sustainable Consumption, 3 Rs (Reduce, Reuse, and Recycle), Green Transition, Integrated Development, and measurement of wellbeing.
2. Building Integrity and Ethics: This workstream covers integrity and ethics in the architecture of financial institutions, in S&T including AI and International Relations.
3. Catalysing Investments for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure, Cities, and Societies: This workstream covers issues of Urbanisation with low carbon footprint/ Future Cities and Habitat, Mobilising Capital and Capacity, and Disaster Resilient Infrastructure with Focus on Small Island Development and Developing countries.

Some of the other Co-Chairs of TF-3 are Ms Anita Prakash, The Economic Research Institute for ASEAN and East Asia, Indonesia; Ms Amrita Narlikar, German Institute for Global and Area Studies, Germany; Mr Li Xiaoyun, International Poverty Reduction Centre, China; Mr Francesco Profumo, Fondazione Compagnia di San Paolo, Italy; Mr Thomas Pogge, Yale University, USA and Ms Noura Mansouri, Research Fellow, KAPSARC, Saudi Arabia (also the former Co-Chair of t20 Saudi Arabia).

More brainstorming sessions are scheduled and shall follow the Inception Conference. The results of the *Call for Policy Brief Abstracts* shall be released in February. On selection, the authors are expected to submit a crisp Policy Brief on the theme, which would then be made available on the Think20’s site and will also have a chance to make it to its *Final Communiqué*.