

T20 Brasil Concept Note

Producing and disseminating knowledge for an inclusive, sustainable, participatory, and fair global economy

1. Introduction

1.1. The G20 process

On 1 December 2023, Brazil will assume the rotating presidency of the Group of 20 (G20), a group of 19 countries plus the European Union. The G20 members represent around 85 per cent of the global GDP, over 75% of the global trade, and about two-thirds of the world population. The Brazilian government will therefore be in charge of organizing the Leaders' Summit and ministerial meetings of the G20 in 2024. The presidency of the G20 also involves the definition of the priority themes to be discussed in the working groups, task forces or initiatives of both the Finance Track, led by ministries of finance and central banks, and the Sherpa Track, led by the ministries of foreign affairs with the involvement of line ministries.

The G20 was initially organized around global macroeconomic coordination and financial stability challenges as a response to the Asian financial crisis of the late 1990s. However, after the triple crises of the late 2000s, it changed from a forum for ministers of finance and central bank governors to a forum of heads of government or State. In doing so, it has incorporated a broader and more dynamic agenda that purports to address challenges related to fostering and financing inclusive sustainable development, with close links to the agenda 2030 with a particular emphasis on climate action and opening up to emerging issues that require collective action and coordination at the global level. Criticisms have been directed to the G20 for being an exclusive group and not including the voices of poorer countries, in contrast to the more inclusive – albeit slower – decision-making process of the United Nations system. Nevertheless, recommendations and consensus reached in the G20 process do influence the global governance and decisions taken in more inclusive fora hence it is an important space to try to influence global debates and decisions.

1.2. The T20 as part of the G20 official engagement groups

Although the official self-organized engagement groups of the G20 are not part of the government-led tracks, they are recognized as legitimate fora where organizations from

the G20 countries discuss and draft recommendations to the G20 policy process. The engagement groups give space to the views of stakeholders such as business organizations and associations (B20), trade unions (L20), national science academies (S20), women's (W20) and youth (Y20) social movements (W20), civil society organizations (C20) as well as groups formed around State entities such as the city mayors group under the Urban20 (U20), parliamentarian (parliament speakers) group (P20) and the Supreme Audit Institutions (SAI20).

The Think20 or T20 group does differ from other engagement groups in that it does not advocate for a specific issue, having as its most important goal to produce, debate, consolidate and put forward ideas, largely derived from evidence-based research, on how to tackle current and emerging challenges that could be addressed by the G20 process. For such purpose, it brings together think tanks and research institutes from the G20 and invited countries of the rotating presidency.

The T20 was initiated during the Mexican presidency in 2012 and has adopted different formats over the past 11 years, with an ever-increasing involvement of think tanks and research institutes. The T20 is co-chaired by national think tanks from the rotating presidency. National and international think tanks are invited to contribute to the T20 in a variety of formats such as participating at T20 conferences and meetings, proposing and organizing T20 side events, submitting policy briefs. They can also join the T20 task forces in charge of peer-reviewing policy briefs and organizing structured discussions that inform the draft of task forces outcome documents and the Communiqué that are handed to the G20 Sherpa track and the Finance track coordinator at the end of the process. The final documents aim to inform and influence the government-led tracks and final G20 recommendations and declarations.

1.3. The T20 Brasil: principles and objectives

The Institute of Applied Economic Research (IPEA), the Alexandre de Gusmão Foundation (FUNAG) and the Brazilian Center for International Relations (CEBRI), Brazilian think tanks that have been involved in previous T20 processes, formally launched the T20 Organizing Committee on 31 May 2023.

Following the principles of inclusiveness, representativeness and effectiveness, and seeking to have a broader impact on the G20 policy processes, the T20 Brasil organizing committee will engage with and invite into its discussion fora and platforms a large number of think tanks both at the national and international level. It will also strive to build stronger links with other engagement groups so that topics discussed, as well as recommendations and policy options produced as part of the T20 Brasil process, reflect a comprehensive understanding of the issues at stake, are widely disseminated and, as a result, enjoy stronger support and legitimacy. In line with this approach, the T20 Brasil will stimulate the participation of think tanks – those with previous experience and newcomers alike – so that they can act as multipliers of the T20 discussions in their countries, engaging other think tanks, research centers linked to universities, and civil society organizations, including social movements, NGOs and other collective actors.

The organization of the T20 activities, including the definition of the Task Forces' lead co-chairs, co-chairs, members and speakers at T20 meetings and conferences, will reflect the principles of inclusiveness and representativeness by ensuring gender balance and the participation of think tanks from different G20 and invited countries, with particular focus on those from the Global South. Participating think tanks shall bring different perspectives and approaches to tackle global challenges. T20 Brasil will also welcome the voices of minority groups usually excluded from similar fora.

T20 Brasil will be the second to be organized in the context of a developing country G20 presidency whose troika is made up exclusively of developing countries, namely India, and Brazil, and South Africa. In such context, T20 Brasil will emphasize issues that are particularly relevant to the Global South and seek to engage more think tanks from these countries and those from the North with a research focus on global sustainable development challenges. Such effort shall contribute to the creation or expansion of research networks and multidisciplinary dialogue, involving different world regions, with a view to facilitating the continuity of a more inclusive agenda and participation in the T20 South Africa and others to come. Moreover, as Brazil is a Latin American country committed to regional integration and cooperation, the organizing committee will seek to increase Latin American countries' think tanks engagement.

Different participation spaces and formats (e.g., virtual channels) will enable the incorporation of a variety of social actors' perspectives in the T20 Brasil discussions, going beyond groups that are traditionally consulted by and/or have easy access to the decision-makers, and, in doing so, increase the transparency and accountability of the process. It is important to reckon that there are various forms of knowledge production beyond science and academia, which can all contribute to a consensus around solutions for global economic, social, environmental and climate challenges.

Thus, engagement groups such as C20, L20, W20, Y20, S20, U20, and B20 will be invited to support the T20 discussions as they can contribute to the identification of relevant issues currently missed by the G20 process and help fine tune T20 recommendations. Such interaction aims to render the T20 process more open, closer to the demands of different countries and segments of society, increasing its legitimacy and influence.

Finally, the T20 Brasil will foster a constructive dialogue with government officials involved in the working groups of both the Sherpa and Finance tracks with a view to increasing T20 policy recommendations/options impact without compromising its independence. This dialogue will enable the T20 process: (i) to be informed about the G20 presidency priority issues as well as about knowledge gaps that could be addressed by the research undertaken by T20 think tanks and their networks and (ii) to propose the discussion of emerging issues not yet covered in the G20 official discussions. To further facilitate this interaction, T20 events shall be organized back-to-back to some key meetings of the official working groups. Policymakers will be invited to attend and/or

speak in the sessions as well as the technical staff from the organizations supporting the G20 official process (e.g., UN agencies and other institutions).

2. National and International Advisory Councils

To realize the principles of inclusiveness and representativeness, the T20 Brasil organizing committee will set up two advisory councils, a national and an international one. The organization of the national advisory council started with a virtual meeting on August 10 to inform a wide audience of potentially interested think tanks and institutions about the T20 role and activities during Brazil's presidency of the G20. The organization of the International Advisory Council will begin up to two months after the T20 summit in India that was held between July 31 and August 2. This process will be conducted initially in consultation with the Troika and later with think tanks that usually participate in the T20 processes, but with the objective to bring in more think tanks from the Global South.

2.1. The National Advisory Council.

2.1.1. Tentative Schedule of Activities

Preparatory work

First half of August: organization of the T20 Brasil introductory virtual meeting to present and discuss the T20 process and the T20 Brasil planned activities with interested Think Tanks, research centers, organizations from other engagement groups (through both open and targeted call).

Until mid-September 2023: After the introductory meeting, national think tanks and institutions from other G20 engagement groups can formally express their interest to join the T20 Brasil National Advisory Council, jointly with the election of a group of representatives that will be in charge of the communication between the organizing committee and the National Advisory Council.

End of September: National Advisory Council is officially formed.

The National Advisory Council will meet virtually 4 times:

- (1) Between end of September and mid-October 2023: to discuss suggestions for strategic sub-themes within each task force and for national coordinators and members of the Task Forces. Coordinators of the Sherpa and finance tracks shall be invited to present Brazil's presidency G20 priorities;
- (2) January 2024: to update on the progress of T20 Brasil;
- (3) March 2024: the T20 Brasil Inception meeting.
- (4) June 2024: to discuss the recommendations/communiqué that will be handed to the Sherpas of the G20.

- (5) November 2024: to take stock and evaluate the T20 Brasil process, shortly after the G20 Summit.

2.1.2. Criteria

It is expected that the think tanks and organizations joining the National Advisory Council have:

- involvement in the discussion or research closely related to the T20 Brasil task forces themes;
- familiarity with the international discussions around the T20 Brasil task force themes;
- access to international networks of knowledge production and dissemination;
- availability to contribute to the T20 Brasil process, at they shall commit to participate in the 4 meetings that will take place from September 2023 to November 2024.

2.1.3. Objectives and roles

The objective of the National Advisory Council is to consult with different think tanks and institutions on the T20 Brasil process and activities. Participating think tanks and institutions are expected to:

- Disseminate the role of the G20 and its engagement groups;
- Collaborate with the T20 Brasil Organizing Committee;
- Suggest sub-themes to be discussed by the T20 Brasil;
- Identify and stimulate interactions with networks of knowledge production organizations from other countries.
- Contribute to the T20 Brasil activities and events (e.g. by submitting policy briefs in co-authorship with national and international partners, engaging with task force and side events, etc.);
- Contribute to the organization of dialogues between T20, C20, L20, B20, Y20 and W20;
- Submit side events proposals, preferably in partnership with the T20 task forces.

2.2. The International Advisory Council

The plan to set up an International Advisory Council was announced during the T20 summit in Mysuru, India. Preliminary discussions with the Troika and then with think tanks from other T20 participating countries will help to disseminate the T20 Brasil principles and work plan with a view to setting up the International Advisory Council in line with T20 Brasil principles and priorities.

2.2.1. Tentative Schedule of Activities

Preparatory work

End of August 2023: present the T20 Concept Note to the Troika

End of September: call with international think tanks to present the T20 concept Note (through open and targeted call).

Between end of September and mid-October 2023: International think tanks and institutions from other G20 engagement groups can formally express their interest to join the T20 Brasil International Advisory Council. There will be one representative per country.

End of October 2023: International Advisory Council is officially formed. The expanded Troika IIBAS (Indonesia + IBAS) will form the secretariat of the International Advisory Council.

The International Advisory Council will meet 4 times, 1 virtual meeting (October 2023 and November 2024) and 3 hybrid meetings during the T20 conferences (inception and mid-term, and summit).

- October 2023: to discuss suggestions for strategic subthemes within each task force and international coordinators for the Task Forces. Coordinators of the Sherpa and finance tracks shall be invited to present Brazil's presidency G20 priorities;
- January 2024: to update on the progress of T20 Brasil;
- June 2024: to discuss the recommendations and Communiqué that will be handed to the Sherpas of the G20;
- October 2024: to take stock and evaluate the process, during the G20 Summit.

2.2.2. Criteria

It is also expected that the international think tanks and organizations from the International Advisory Council have:

- Involvement with the themes to be discussed in the T20 Brasil task forces;
- Familiarity with the international discussions around the T20 Brasil task force themes.
- Access to international networks of knowledge production and dissemination.
- Availability to contribute to the T20 Brasil process; to a minimum level they should participate in the 4 meetings that will take place from October 2023 to October 2024.

2.1.3. Objectives and roles:

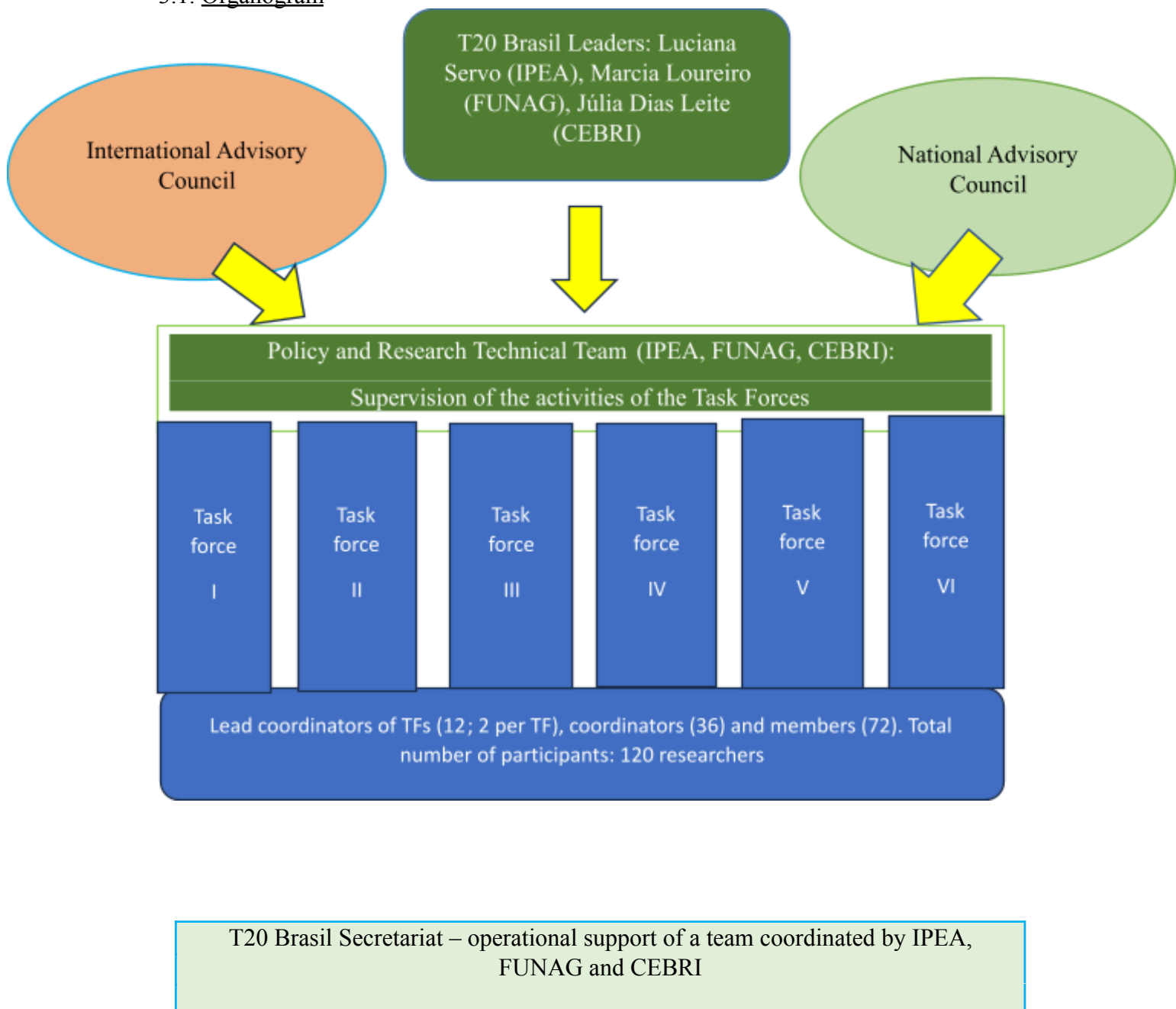
The objective of the International Advisory Council is to hear from international think tanks suggestions on issues of global relevance to be discussed and get them closely involved with the T20 Brasil processes. Participating international think tanks and institutions are expected to:

- Disseminate the role of the G20 and its engagement groups within their country and networks;
- Collaborate with the T20 Brasil Organizing Committee;
- Suggest sub-themes to be discussed by the T20 Brasil;
- Identify and stimulate interactions with networks of knowledge production organizations from their countries (other multi-country networks);

- Contribute to the T20 Brasil activities and events (e.g. by submitting policy briefs, engaging with task force events and side events);
- Participate and contribute to dialogues between T20, C20, L20, B20, Y20 and W20;
- Submit side events proposals, preferably in partnership with T20 Brasil task forces.

3. Proposed structure for T20 Brasil

3.1. Organogram



3.2. Roles and responsibilities

T20 Brasil leaders: the leaders of the three institutions of the organizing committee: president of IPEA; president of FUNAG; director-president of CEBRI. They will:

- i. Supervise and guide the members of the organizing committee and of the Policy Research technical team (researchers from IPEA, CEBRI and FUNAG);
- ii. Communicate with the heads of the think tanks involved in the T20 Brasil process;
- iii. Communicate with the coordination of the G20 Brazil process to facilitate the exchange between the two processes;
- iv. Communicate with leaders of other engagement groups to facilitate the exchange between both processes;
- v. Approve proposals for official side events.

The **Policy and Research Technical Team** will:

- i. Coordinate, in consultation with T20 leaders and National and International Advisory Councils, the allocation of lead co-chairs, co-chairs and TF members, taking into account gender balance, country diversity, diversity of perspectives;
- ii. Coordinate the work of the six TFs in close collaboration with the lead co-chairs
- iii. Ensure that discussions take place and that results are delivered on time, and that all co-chairs and lead co-chairs are fully involved in the activities of the TFs;
- iv. Contribute to the discussions in the TFs and facilitate communication with the official representatives of governments in the G20 at the technical level;
- v. Receive and analyze the proposals of official side events and submit them to the leaders of T20 Brasil.

Task Forces (TF): Substantive discussions and collaborative work will take place within six TFs of T20 Brasil:

- Each TF will focus on a specific theme to be announced by the leaders of T20 Brasil by the end of September 2023 (after the leaders' summit at the G20 India) taking into account the priorities of the Brazilian presidency of the G20 and the official working groups, as well as suggestions from national and international think tanks;
- For each TF, two lead co-chairs of the think tanks of the G20 countries (or guest), one national (Brazilian) and one foreign, one man and one woman (gender parity), will coordinate the activities;
- TF themes are divided into a maximum of six subtopics¹ related to the general TF theme. Each subtopic will be assigned to a co-chair who will be responsible for working together with two (2) other TF members. The maximum number of TF participants during T20 Brasil will be 120 researchers;
- The lead co-chairs, co-chairs and core members of the TFs should be representatives of participating think tanks and research institutions who are

¹ As the discussion between the T20 Brazil Technical Policy and Research Technical Team and the national and international advisory boards to define subtopics within and between TFs advances, this maximum can be relaxed as long as the total number of subthemes (36) remains the same.

experts in the themes and subtopics under their responsibility and fluent in written and spoken English;

- Cross-cutting issues that are not treated as a theme of a specific TF can be accommodated as subtopics in multiple TFs;
- TF teams will have monthly meetings and will be responsible for:
 - (i) Selecting *policy brief* and peer review proposals;
 - (ii) Discussing and drafting the recommendations of the TFs and;
 - (iii) Reporting to the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team.

Researchers from think tanks who are eventually not invited to join TF teams will be able to participate in open discussions (e.g., webinars and side events), as well as to submit *policy briefs* to TFs.

The **lead co-chairs** will be responsible for:

- Producing a concept note for the TF under its general coordination to be presented at the time of the *handover* from India to Brazil (end of November, possibly November 24). The concept note should cover all subtopics of the TF and should benefit from *feedback* from the TF co-chairs and the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team;
- Organizing monthly meetings with the support of the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team;
- Consulting TF co-chairs and members about additional activities they would like to organize as part of the T20 process and discuss them with the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team;
- Leading the process of selection and review of *policy briefs* in collaboration with the co-chairs;
- Systematizing the main conclusions and recommendations for each sub-topic, as a result of the monthly discussion of the Task Forces and the *policy briefs*;
- Leading discussions on TF recommendations with the support of the Technical Policy and Research Team;
- Supporting the organization of the three T20 conferences and participating in them;
- Supporting and participating in some of the side events of T20 Brasil;
- Reporting to the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team on the progress of the TF's work.

Lead co-chairs will not be able to submit *policy brief proposals* to their own TF.

The **co-chairs** will be responsible for:

- Engaging with TF members working on the subtopic under their responsibility, including by providing inputs to the TF's concept note;
- Conducting the discussion and other activities related to the sub-theme assigned to them;
- Ensuring that the *selected policy briefs* on the subtopic are co-authored by researchers from at least two countries, two organizations, and with gender diversity in the co-authorship;
- Reporting to the lead co-chairs on the progress of the TF team on the subtopic;

- Consolidating the written peer review comments of the two members working on the subtopic;
- Informing the lead co-chair about the progress of work on the subtopic;
- Participating in the three T20 Brasil conferences and in some of the side events related to T20 Brasil.

Co-chairs may only submit policy *brief* proposals for a subtopic other than the one he/she is working on as a TF member.

TF members are expected to:

- Work closely with the co-chair of the subtopic they are working on;
- Attend the TF's monthly meetings;
- Support the proposal selection process for policy *briefs* and the peer review process by submitting written comments by the agreed deadline;
- Provide input for the T20 recommendations;
- Attend the three T20 Brasil conferences and some T20 Brasil side events; TF members will only be able to submit policy *brief* proposals for a subtopic other than the one he/she is working on as a TF member.

The **T20 Brasil Secretariat** will:

- Provide operational support to the leaders of T20 Brasil and to the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team;
- Facilitate communication with the National and International Advisory Councils, think tanks, institutions and other engagement groups;
- Support the activities, namely the organization of the conferences and events of the Task Forces (TF), in close collaboration with the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team;
- Develop, maintain and update the T20 communication strategy, including the website and social networks.

3.3. Outcomes

Policy briefs have three purposes: (i) increase the engagement of G20 think tanks around the T20 agenda; (ii) foster collaborative networks across think tanks; and (iii) inform the TF discussions that will feed into the TF recommendations and final communiqué.

- The Task Force teams (lead co-chairs, co-chairs, and members), with support from the national and international advisory council, will encourage researchers from the G20 think tank network to submit policy brief proposals.
- The selection of abstracts will be based on the relevance of the subject, the relevance and feasibility of the policy recommendation, and their potential for future work by the G20;
- Task Forces will be in charge of the selection of proposals and peer-review of the drafts policy briefs, that will have to follow a pre-defined template to be disseminated on the t20brasil.org website;
- Policy briefs must be co-authored by researchers from different think tanks, from different countries and be co-authored at least by one woman;

- The TFs co-chairs and members will provide written reviews of the draft Policy Briefs to be shared with authors who will then submit a revised version;
- The Policy Briefs will be posted/published on the t20brazil.org website and widely disseminated through social media.

TF Recommendations and T20 Communiqué. TF recommendations will be produced by the lead co-chairs and co-chairs and then further consolidated by all lead chairs into a single document (communiqué) with the support of the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical Team to be handed to the Sherpas in July 2024 with a view to influencing the G20 final discussions.

Conferences. There will be three conferences during the T20 Brasil:

- Inception conference (March 2024): Lead co-chairs will collaborate with the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical team to establish the agenda for the conference and will present the Concept Note for each TF. TF team will meet face to face for an initial discussion about the procedures for evaluating Policy Brief proposals – including the distribution of the workload – as well as to discuss the process and initial ideas to be considered in the recommendations.
- Mid-term conference (July 2024): Lead co-chairs will collaborate with the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical team to establish the agenda for the conference. The lead coordinators are expected to present the TF's final recommendations and participate in panel discussions. The T20 Brasil leaders will present the final communiqué.
- The T20 Summit (November 2024): Lead co-chairs will collaborate with the T20 Brasil Policy and Research Technical team to set the conference agenda. During the conference, representatives and guests of the G20 Brazil will have the opportunity to discuss the proposals presented in the communiqué and the final recommendations of T20 Brasil.

Side events organized by think tanks or in which T20 Brasil TFs are invited to participate will also be considered an integral part of the T20 Brasil process, provided that they are approved by T20 Brasil leaders. They will also be posted on the website t20brazil.org.

