



DEMOCRATISING DEVELOPMENT: UNITING PERSPECTIVES FROM AROUND THE WORLD

International Webinar Series

Supported By



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1. Context of the Webinar Series

The International Webinar Series as an initiative was designed to augment participation of CSO Organizations from the G20 nations in democracy discussions

Specific objectives of the Webinar Series was

- To gather global perspectives on issues, challenges and solutions in democracy
- Understand native models highlighting Udaaharans (best practices) in democracy and Governance
- Examining means and ways to promote inclusive democracy
- Appreciate democratic institutions in delivering good governance
- Gather inputs which can serve as a feeder to policy pack to be presented in the final summit

CSO leaders distinguished group of field-tested experts of civil society from diverse background and all walks of life were identified as speakers in this webinar series

The series had four webinars covering 14 of the 19 G20 member countries, and each webinar was designed for a duration of 90 minutes and had about 3-4 G20 member nations participate in smaller clusters. Around 500 odd participants attended the webinar series. The fifth webinar which was called off at the nth moment due to unavoidable circumstances.

2.Format of the webinar

10 mins – Welcome, introduction of coordinators, moderator and speaker and was done by the organizer

5 mins- National coordinator speakers about the objectives of WG, different activities happening under this WG, and specifically the objectives of the webinar series

5 minutes : International coordinator sets the tone of the webinar

5 minutes – Webinar moderator shares their perspective on the theme and invites speakers to share their perspectives on the same

40 minutes – 10 minutes for each speaker to share their perspectives issues, challenges and solutions, and also Udaaharans(best practices)

15 mins of Q&A by moderator

10 minutes of summarization and closing by the moderator followed by closing remarks by international coordinator

A **preparatory call** for the webinar was conducted 3 days before the live webinar. This prep call was for 90 minutes and included international coordinator, speakers and moderator

3. Brief profile of organizer, co-ordinators, moderator and speaker

National coordinator of Delivering Democracy Working Group – Dr Basavaraju R Shreshta, Executive Director, GRAAM, India

International Coordinator- Benedetto Zacchiroli. President of the European Coalition of cities against racism (ECCAR). Former Chief of Cabinet, and Advisor of the general Secretary of the Italian Government

National Coordinator

1. Dr Basavaraju R Shrestha, Executive Director of GRAAM India
2. Benedetto Zacchiroli, President ECCAR, Italy

Moderator and Organiser

1. Shoury Reddy Singareddy, Executive Director, Balavikasa Hyderabad
2. Vas Shenoy- Working Group member and founder Dialogue on Democracy
3. Amrat Singh, Director CUTS International, Jaipur
4. Jagadananda, Mentor and Co-founder, CYSD, Orrisa
5. Jayashree Krishna, Consultant at GRAAM, and Working Group Member

Speakers

1. Binny Buchori, Founder and Advisory Board – The Prakasara, Former Deputy Chief of Staff of the executive office of President, Indonesia
2. John Miller Beauvior, CEO , Polticom, Canada
3. Gloria Careaga- Academic Activist, Co-founder of The UNAM Gender Studies program, Mexico
4. Doug Guthrie, ED Marshall Goldsmith- 100 Coaches, USA
5. Christian Raffer, Economist at the German Insitute of Urban Studies, Germany
6. Dr Yong Chang Jang, Chief researcher- Centre for Deliberative Democracy and environment, South Korea
7. Mathew Robinson, Director, EGIC Chairman, Northern Ireland Conservatives, Brussels
8. Benedetto Zacchiroli, President ECCAR, Italy
9. Andrea Grobocopatel, Member Vital Voices Global Partnership. Gender equality advocate. Former co-chair W20, G20 Empower Representative, Argentina
10. Bruna Almeida, Director at Globalizando NGO and Student Ambassador UNDP, Brazil
11. Tebogo Suping, Executive Director Programmes, Activate! Change Drivers, South Africa
12. Meg Jones- Chief Economic Empowerment , UN Women, Australia
13. Pierre Suc-Mella, Director of Disabled and Elderly people policies, Toulouse, France

14. Lauren S Power- Founder and managing Director Young Professionals in Foreign Policy, Japan

4. Themes of the Webinar

Four themes discussed

1. Strengthening Civil Society for deepening democracy – Role of the state.
2. Decentralising Governance- Models and Methods
3. Youth for Democracy- Youth lead democracy
4. Inclusive Democracy - ways and means for including all sections

5. Key perspectives shared

- *A well known framework encourages the state to look at Legal, organizational structures, financial viability and advocacy as foundational factors for sustainability or strengthening of CSOs.*
- Instead of the state enforcing legal frameworks to impede or weaken the CSO, the focus should be a constructive / facilitating engagement of state and CSOs. States should think, create and implement frameworks which aid in creating good legal, organizational and financial structures to bring together Civil Societies, think tanks, NGOs and aid constructive relations with policy and decision makers. So that CSOs can be shapers of the Civic space itself. State should provide measures for financial sustainability of CSOs,
- On the other side CSOs should be advocacy bodies and have demands about good governance, legal framework, policy changes, policy prescriptions
- “A vibrant civil society is the cornerstone for strong democracy and ultimately leads to a more open and thriving society.” The context of the current democracy is very different from the democracy 20-30 years ago. Today along with the key players CSO, State, private sector there is a strong influence of IT, social media and use of AI. In a shrinking civic space, social media has become a haven for activists to hold the state accountable, promote transparency and participation.
- On the flip it has also become a space for fake news and misinformation that cause fear, uncertainties and doubt among the public. The government has a role to initiate dialogue and persuade social media companies to practise good governance. Civil society needs to be able to understand such challenges, learn and adapt to this equation and gain more knowledge. The government should provide capacity building to CSOs to adapt to the current challenging situations and not regulate but persuade social media to be responsible. “It is in the interest of the government that it has a civic sphere that is not murky with fake news but is productive with positive conversation.
- There is no doubt of the existence of an inherent relationship between the concept of democracy and citizen participation. *The very Quality of democracy is measured by the roles and participation of citizens in public affairs, in addition to the respect of the right of free expression, public demonstrations and association,*

- Countries need a strong and critical civil society with possibilities of open dialogue with the government and bringing a rich consensus to government actions and public policies. Civil Society Organisations should play an informative, consultative, deliberative and implicative role with the support of the government. For democracy to flourish link with universities give opportunities to form a new work team

- Corporations have a role in society and also a role for civil society. An important question is how we incentivize people and corporations to build a functioning civil society, one in which everyone is coming together to think cleverly and clearly to build a community level infrastructure. In a broad sense, democracy itself is public goods, but when the market economy expands, capitalistic powers expand, and people become busier in making wealth, they cannot participate in democratic politics, and democracy becomes weaker. Therefore, to strengthen and decentralised democracy, there is a need to incentivise people to produce public goods.

- Youth is not the future but the present leaders in the advocacy world and the inclusion of youth in every 'conversation' is a must. They do not want to be led by someone by being a mere passive learner. *Different avenues to engage them with social aspects. They could be engaged at any level, domestic or international through partnerships. One can join a civil society organisation or any such organisation virtually or can even work and volunteer in their own community. And for the ones who do not have access to any kind of political knowledge could be included in committees or organisations that sit together 2-3 times a year to talk, discuss, debate upon various issues like consultation of international trade, Sustainable Development Goals, Global warming etc*

- Youth engagement in key decision-making processes would boost the youth involvement in Democracy. Discussion, debate, and other forms of engagement are important to reach the grassroot level and meet the people where they are. Through civic trainings only, one can lead interventions as youth collectives, going to grassroot levels and training them in civic education aside from school curriculum will deepen their involvement, in parallel establishing partnerships with important organisations like United Nations also helps create spaces of active citizenship for all (connecting young people to engage across race, religion, culture, and political lines) so that we leave no one behind in the process of democracy, design methodologies that fits each stakeholder as per their needs and engage through education, learning and awareness to increase the knowledge of democracy, its importance to each group, and how each one can be a more productive and informed participant.

- To understand inclusive democracy, we need to break down barriers, understand the needs of our diverse communities, and anchor our commitments to universal human rights. We need to empower, educate, create, design, and sustain inclusive spaces for democracy to flourish. Digital technology would be an unprecedented empowering force, especially in creating democratic and inclusive spaces. But only if it can be designed and be inclusive and regulated for impact and safety.

6. Proceedings of Webinar 04

Theme : Inclusive Democracy

Focus Area : Means and ways of including all sections

Participating G20 Countries :Australia, Japan, France, Italy, India

Date & Time

24 May 2023 | 1:00 PM (Bengaluru, India) | 17:30-19:00 (Canberra, Australia) |
16:30-18:00 (Tokyo, Japan) | 9:30-11:00(Paris, France and Rome)

Speaker Profiles

Meg Jones – Former Chief, Economic Empowerment, UN Women

Meg Jones is an Expert in Gender and Trade. Having held senior roles in economic empowerment at the United Nations for over a decade, she now specialises in the global flower trade.

In the context of the G20 Meg led the team at the United Nations that supported the establishment of the W20 engagement group, under the presidency of the Government of Turkey, working with civil society organisations to identify policy priorities, recommendations and implementation strategies.

Meg has held several positions in the United Nations, as Chief, Economic empowerment at UN Women in New York; Programme Manager for Women and Trade at the International Trade Centre in Geneva; and Desk Officer for South Asia at the Office of the United Nations High Commissioner for Human Rights where she was also responsible for Coordination of Cooperation in the Asia-Pacific Region.

Pierre SUC-MELLA, Director of Disabled and Elderly People policies in a French local authority

Pierre SUC-MELLA is Director of Disabled and Elderly People policies in a French local authority (Conseil départemental de la Haute-Garonne, Toulouse, France) and also Professor at the Institute of Political Science in Toulouse.

Member of AATF and ANDASS (French professional associations interested in social policies), he is the author of a book dedicated to inclusive society *La Société inclusive, jusqu'où aller ?* (Inclusive society : to what extent ?), Eres editions, 2020.

Lauren S Power- Founder and Managing Director of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YPFP) Tokyo

Lauren is the Founder and Managing Director of Young Professionals in Foreign Policy (YPFP) Tokyo, a youth-led, youth-focused NGO that fosters international, inclusive, and intergenerational dialogue on pivotal issues

Lauren S Power is an award-winning researcher, author, speaker, and advocate for women, youth, and migrants.

She is a Ph.D. Candidate in International Relations and Researcher at the University of Tokyo.

This year, Lauren is a W7 Japan Advisor and a W20 U.S. Delegate to India. She has also contributed to the Open and Resilient Societies C7 Working Group as coordinator of the sub-working groups on Civic Space and Digital Democracy. She is currently part of C20 India and has been a stakeholder in C20 for several years as a firm believer in the power of multilateral civil society collaboration and democracy.

Webinar proceedings

In the opening **Basavaraju** stressed on the G20 theme Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, his key message, at the outset of the G20 India Presidency the Honourable PM gave a call to make G20 a people's campaign and not a government's program. And that this webinar is for all to learn from G20 nation best practices and solutions, for problems and challenges we are facing from ages.

Setting the specific tone to the webinar - Whether delivering democracy is truly happening to all marginalized sections, and what can be done more to create an enabling environment for all of them in democratizing development. Regarding Inclusiveness he spoke about the challenges of including the most marginalised community. While there is a belief that women are empowerment, statistics do not support the same in many ways. Coming to People with disability -while efforts are on with special booths, vehicle arrangements, facility to vote at home there is a long way to go in terms of including them in the democracy process. Sexual minority is getting at least a space in many government schemes- the application forms now provision to capture their sex and give them an opportunity to spell out their needs, there is a long way to go w.r.t work in this segment also

Benedetto- Inclusion is to be sure that no one is left behind, to create a place where everyone could be heard and discuss to decide and act together as a community

Lauren – democracy has been present in various forms in different civilizations for 1000 of years, democracy has a focus on representation, governance, and law making that can ensure certain fundamental freedoms. Taking examples of autocracy, plutocracy, alogarchy she shared that democracy is not in itself a solution of all problems Many a times it is a tyranny of the majority – and hence ensuring fundamental freedom to the majority.

The idea that democracy should be inclusive of all minority groups giving them an equal valid say in law making and governance and ensuring equal fundamental freedom is relatively new. She shared example from USA and Japan – disabled people, young people of women, African from USA, Japan- still need attention , also cultural and political rights of LGBTQIA+, migrants communities – inclusive democracy still has much to improve

To achieve inclusive democracy we must focus not only to understand and breaking barriers, we must also come to know the needs of our diverse community, anchor our commitments in universal human rights, empower and educate people and design create and sustain inclusive spaces for democracy to flourish

♣♣ Speaking about her YFPF experience - seek out issues and spaces where we believe young people want to be heard and should have their voices heard, we push for representation in these spaces and then we train, prepare and support one another in a peer-to-peer fashion with international colleagues before sending out our delegates.

To begin with we help young people to be engaged and to engage others in their communities on climate and sustainability issues, when young people see in practice that they can make a difference when they exercise their freedom they feel incredibly empowered, then they know they can and have the confidence to pursue higher goals. to and learnt how to lift up others around, and they engage more politically and see themselves as agents of change in a broader sense

When people are meaningfully included it is empowering and it leads themselves in an empowering way into the future;

♣♣ Speaking about her W7 (under G7) experience she said that they accepted 93 W7 advisors- women and men stakeholders that advise about policy recommendation and gender equality issues to the G7 leaders- including 40% from global south and 20% youth including these voices does change the conversation and helped us be more inclusive

♣♣ W7-Practice of inclusion in the digital landscape – Women transforming the digital world, safer and inclusive with prosperity for all, UN secretary general said “at the current rate of change gender equality can be achieved in 300 years

Digital technology can be an unprecedented powering force to create democratic spaces and inclusive spaces but only if it is designed to be inclusive and regulated for impact and safety, unfortunately women and girls and all the diversity are particularly at risk to be excluded from benefits of digital work, access to technology and data and AI

Regulation, coordinated intervention, and gender responsive and intersectional approach to technology urgently need to be adopted in this rapidly evolving space. We emphasise the benefits of women inclusion and leadership in digital economies and digital spaces will not be realised until G7 leaders commit to make the Digital world safer and more inclusive, and more equitable, *for many people especially people from marginalised community the digital landscape can be a liberating space for expression and engagement,* and it's important to think of how to engage these actors in these spaces for a more inclusive democracy but now and into the future that we get into understand the barriers historically and currently and also how to empower these communities. This needs to be specific and need to be reviewed regularly and there needs to open and transparent processes and conversations so that everyone is meaningfully given a chair at the table and leadership position

In her closing note she stressed that democracy cannot be taken for granted, we cannot believe that it is enough, it should be continuously improved

Pierre Suc Mella – there is no doubt that democracy is the best regime we can have, but there is a crisis of democracy. There is a frustration not to have the power to make the law when we are part of certain sections. Second challenge in democracy is the adherence to democracy-even if you are well informed and have a process one does not adhere to it. Creating spaces where voices can be heard, don't take the process as an end but look at it as an evolving process

♣♣Eg from Toulouse on inclusion of elderly and disabled people– as local authorities trying to improve inclusive democracy, they build a participatory process. In all processes- local consultation between parliament and working groups for elderly and disabled people with particular goals to hear the voices of elderly and disabled people and take it to the right forums

While participatory process is necessary equally important is that the process be inclusive.

Inclusion in a new paradigm is adaptation of law to cater to everyone. Law is a social construct, it can change with discussion a common process, it can evolve and cater to different needs.

In his closing note he stressed on Inclusion being a cultural change; and a solution to revive democracy. He further went to share about *Common law by stating that participation in the formulation of the law and realization of the right, to formulate those and to make it dynamic and fluid to be able to adapt to circumstances is very important for the society*

Meg Jones started with the sharing that in the international stage (inclusion and democratic process) United Nations – this is the voice international conventions have adopted, negotiated all the members participating with equal rights (1948) First international agreements that came out was universal declaration of human rights – women and men could participate equally International convention on elimination of all forms of discrimination against women (1979) specifically mentioned *Article 3 which says that all states which sign on to this convention must take all appropriate measures including legislation to ensure the full development and advancement of women for the purpose of guaranteeing their exercise and enjoyment of human rights and fundamental freedom on an equal basis with men* - made member countries look at participation of men and women in parliament

Specific sharing about Australia

When a policy or law is adopted there needs to be support by government to realize the policy – budgetary aspect, awareness rising

When we elect a people representative, we expect them to use the taxpayers money to realize the policy, includes representing our interest, the interest of disabled, the interests of LGBTQIA+ community

♣♣ Specific example of Australia's Victoria electoral commission on outreach and inclusion of migrants- She spoke about the budgets spent on migrant education program, the budget was spent on 35 democracy ambassadors who work in 43 languages across migrant community on voter education (what an election is, what representative democracy is, and what does it mean to vote) which has resulted in migrant women becoming more active

♣♣ Speaking about the private sector process to uphold democracy she spoke about shareholder advocacy- shareholders coming together to be vocal on specific issues that the company may or may not be involved in. Shareholder activism on environment, social and governance aspects. Scope of the same power to human rights issue is being considered in private sector - Gender equality- Member on board, equal opportunity, onboarding women, retention of women, promotion of women schemes are all good examples of the same

In the closing she shared her observation of India-Indian Stock exchange has requested top 1000 public listed companies to report on SG of environmental social governance concerns – some human rights concerns are being addressed by the pvt sector. She also mentioned that there is Power of media to ensure real check and balance and stressed upon the need of education on how to read news paper

7.Proceedings of Webinar 03

Theme : Youth for Democracy

Focus Area : Youth lead Democracy

Participating G20 Countries : South Africa, Argentina, Brazil, India

Date & Time

17th May 2023 | 17:30 (Bengaluru, India) | 9:00-10:30 ART(Argentina) | 14:00-15:30 SAST(South Africa) | 9:00-10:30 BRT (Brasil)

Speaker Profiles

Tebago Suping(South Africa) Has vast experience in strategy development, corporate social investment, facilitation, civic education and training. She describes herself as a strategist at heart, driven by love for people and a passion to create opportunities for them to thrive. Part of her role in the civic and civic society space has been to develop and implement programmes that enable opportunities to meet young people where they are at the grassroot levels

She measures success in her work in positive action “It’s when you see a young person move from one level of development to another or do more for their community because they have better access to opportunities and resources that we are able to provide or link them to. Success is seeing improvement in the quality and value of people’s lives. And seeing the growth in young people on local, national and even international platforms, where opportunities like that are few and far between

Andrea Grobocopatel (Argentina) is business woman and a philanthropist who has been advocated for near a decade to lead responsible and inclusive projects.

Andrea has been working on promoting gender equality for more than two decades. Her concerns about the gender gap in labor and economic inclusion have led her to actively advocate for women’s autonomy and for making visible their unequal contribution to domestic work. Grobocopatel has been an advisor for companies, governments as well as decision-makers on women and care work.

Her career as a gender equality advocate led her to be the G20 Empower Representative, the G20 Alliance for Empowerment and Progression of Women’s Economic Representation. She was Co-Chair of the W20, a high-level advisory group of the G20, whose objective is to influence over G20 countries on embracing gender in their public policy decisions. Currently, she is a delegate for the W20’s International Dialogue Process.

She has been a mentor of Vital Voices Global Partnership and is the author of *Pasión por Hacer* (Passion to do), her first book sharing personal lessons as a businesswoman. Grobocopatel was recognized as 'Innovative Leader of the Year' by the Women in Agribusiness Summit 2014 and was named in *Apolitical's* top 100 most influential people in gender policy in 2018.

Bruna Almeida (Brazil)

International Relations Student at University of Brasília passionate about Sustainable Development and Social Impact.

Coordinator of Content Production at University of Brasília's Strategic Program for the 2030 Agenda, Director at Globalizando NGO and Student Ambassador to UNDP.

Webinar proceedings

Opening the webinar and setting the tone **Dr Basavaraju** spoke, we under Delivering Democracy Working Group are committed to taking G20 to the grassroots. Under the theme *Vasudeiva kutumbakam*, we are engaging various sections of the community from students, to local self-government members like village councils, gram panchayat, parliamentarians, engage academicians and all your democracy champions from various G20 nations. Requested the speaker to keep discussion to focus on *Udharans*

About the Webinar Youth lead democracy, he said that while youth bring in demographic dividend we should deliberate if they are bringing in democratic dividend, unfortunately the indices published don't say so. Today's discussion should bring in thoughts on different engagement models with youth

Bruna – Starting with sharing how she got to the point of working with youth, she started at her 1st year in high school a teacher's encouragement words "**there is only a victory if everyone wins**". This is the belief she stands by now and shows in all the work she is involved in. *There will be victory if youth is in it, if youth is represented, if youth is in advocacy and therefore youth should be empowered.* Giving a little bit of a context of Brazil 40% of youth are in poverty, youth between 25 to 34 about only 21% have completed HE, from 18-24 only 18.1% are in HE right now. Seeing the numbers, *if education is the main driving factor for people to start engaging to bring about change in the society*, if only 1% of the next generation leaders are in advocacy, and many are not in university or not studying in a formal context how are we going to change the situation if the youth are not having the access to basic knowledge to the professionals in CSOs, in government and in the private sector. We need to change the situation, but how are we going to do it was her question

CSO's here articulate in different manners- Government and private sectors are spreading knowledge on specific themes programs and events to engage youth in political activity producing content around certain topics

Sharing her own experience as a youth, she mentioned that she specifically engages in spread of knowledge on specific theme especially around sustainable development 2030 and youth. She engages in program and engagements to engage youth in political activity and political learning.

Youth don't like to be led by someone, don't want to be passive learners and just sit and listen to what others have to say, in order to learn the youth actually need to act, they believe in participation as a key component of learning.

♣♣In the initiative she leads as gender director, the organization engages youth who have never had access a political education or any type of structured discussions and absorbs them in different committees every single year, 2-3 times in a year in discussions pertaining to pressing matters of Brazil, its education forms, expression forms that affect us as youth

Amazon, the north east region of Brazil, if the people don't know that they can discuss this, how will they act on it in the future? Through the conduct of webinars on how to discuss, what topics, how they can engage, how to represent some specific thought, and also in the form of an event in line with the MUN youth discuss these pressing matters

Others work involves preparing content around these SDG goals of 2030, partnerships with other CSOs, engage with government, give lectures, prepare short films etc

♣♣Speaking to the youth on how to connect with a big agenda like 2030 (how to go from discussions locally to national and to international arena), experiencing political education experiencing parliament, political parties, the process for interaction and the process for citizen engagement and calling youth to be leaders and in promoting change wherever they are she spoke about two segment of youth based on their starting point in this journey

Youth who maybe know exactly what they want to act on and where they want to act. And a segment when youth don't know, better for youth in the second category to look for organizations locally or internationally that work around the topic they are interested in

She mentioned that youth can participate by promoting event on political matters, spreading knowledge, participate in advocacy, teaching topics that they are interested in and know a lot more, and articulating with other organization

While youth may not be able to participate in strategic parts, they can participate in academic part, in media, in institution relationship, human resources, other work either virtually or in-person.

Her other key message to youth- *you don't have to rush into thinking we must be perfect in this work and this journey*, you should think that you are one person and one thing in a large network (scheme of things) and that your work is impacting each other, and by making small changes we youth can achieve what we can.

Tebogo – For young people across G20 nations we are living in both the best and rest of times. We are living in an era where the underpinning low level of youth participation. Not issues of apathy but issues of engagement disconnect. What kind of politics are young people being offered is it the current model most political process are now modelled around persuasions like vote for me and then no discussions that happen post-election, vs political culture of discourse where young people feel they are heard on issues that are important, which are , where the young feel that they have a space for them to lead in the now, youth feel that there are process of accountability where young people feel they can hold their leaders accountable

♣♣Activate's philosophy how do we connect young people it is when we mobilize that we are able to garner a greater sense of the collective voice of young people, it's also how do we capacitate, how to harness the agency the young people have to be able to respond in small ways, in small spaces, in small communities. How do we not lose the value of what little things can do when they come together as a country, as countries and as nations. How to connect youth to spaces in key decision-making process where they can be heard. This is a way to shape how youth show up in the democracy process

South Africa this is what youth is asking- if 60% of youth are unemployed, why should they participate in the democracy process, why should they vote. If they are living in poverty why should the show up as active and accountable citizen

Create allowance for disagreement and those who are left out (dissident voices should also be heard). Those voices come together to destroy what we are trying to create

♣♣Create spaces in marginalized communities in rural areas for these issues to be heard, we should stop young people feeling that violent protests are the only way to be heard, youth participation and wrong narrative needs to be changes

Not voting are a loud statement young people are making saying we do not trust what is put on the table, and we need to hear that. Given that the system does not allow for that, we go to grassroot communities, train and capacitate young people on civic education because this content field is not found in curriculum, where young people

can speak and interrogate what these concepts mean and how they can be lived. Anything that is lived is not trusted, anything that is not trusted cannot be replicated

Partnerships Activate builds UNDP, independent electoral commission, Government, departments which offer opportunities to young people, we all need to come one level down -where opportunities, information, discussions and key concepts need to start meeting people where they are, we need to rework how we work with young people
We need to elevate the spaces young people are working for, making a difference with a sense of urgency

Young people are trained to lead civic education program with peer group
Work of change is hard work, is not easy but is doable. How to keep the hope alive

Summarizing the discussion

How to convert apathy to engagement, and in a structured way activate change drivers capacitate them, and bring accountability in a big way between citizens and the institution of governance and political system

Three interesting education -Voter education for young people, civic education on constitution and democracy, policy conversation with policy makers in which engagement and conversations take place

Andrea started with the sharing of examples from Argentina – Voto joven(2013) extending voting rights to 16 & 17 year olds, in 2023 Argentina celebrates 40 years of uninterrupted democracy- a celebration of acceptance that elections are the only legitimate form of power transfer

About what young people think about voting and electoral representation - 40% value voting as a right, 52 % feel that their ideas are not represented by political parties or public officials, 60 % responded that they should have represented the congress or some quota system should prevail

What concerns young people -30% indicated quality of education was of utmost importance, 58.15% considered school does not provide necessary skills for insertion into labor market, another topic of priority was digital skills training

About SDG 4 – quality education – when more people can access quality education they can escape the cycle of poverty, reduce inequality, promote healthier and sustainable life, contribute to citizen engagement and the development of nation

65% of young people in school will work in jobs that don't exist today

Current Problems in youth w.r.t political representation- there is insufficient representation of young people in political parties, although young people are interested in political spheres they hold very few public offices, the disappointment of politics and its potential, alienates young people, party affiliations has generated a rift which affects the continuity of public policy

What do they think about their right to vote- 19% voting should be accompanied with other forms of political participation, 23% participation should only take place if there is an option that truly represents them, 42% there should always be electoral participation because it's a earned right

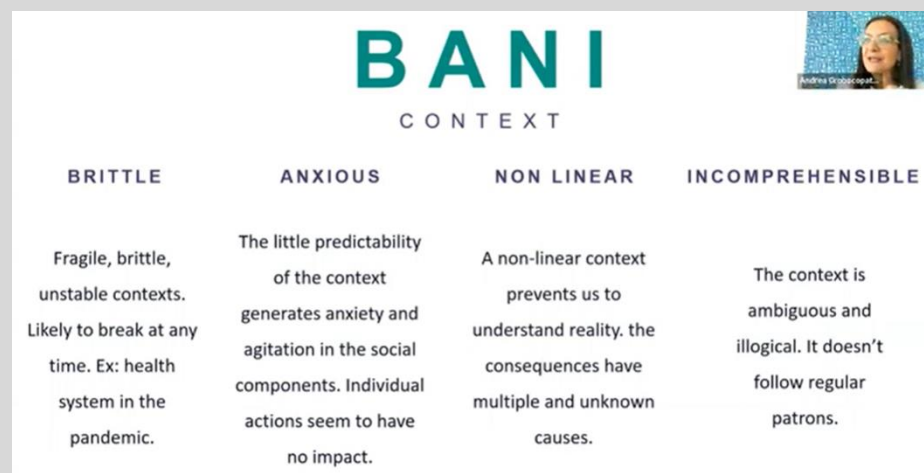
♣♣Best practices

- Encourage and value responsible leadership
- Current political leaders should prepare their successors and promote their participation
- Recover the legitimacy of the public sphere as a space for positive change
- Promote responsible and informed voting through the construction of political criteria
- Promote organizations that bring political reality closer to this population
- Train teachers for better civic education at schools

She characterized responsible leaders as ones who have an

- Open and adaptive mindset
- Consciences of their influence
- Awareness of the value they represent
- Contemplates all stake holders
- Dialogues, listens and builds network
- Accountable
- Develops others
- Prepares successors
- Appreciates diversity

She explained the need to include young people using the BANI(Brittle, Anxious, Non Linear, Incomprehensible) context as described herein



In her closing she stressed that responsible people will build responsible organizations and in turn a responsible society. Also, the key message in her closing being Future of the world needs the youth. The youth are the future of the world

8. Proceedings of Webinar 02

Theme

Decentralized Governance

Focus Area

Methods and Models

Participating G20 Countries

Germany, Italy, South Korea, UK

Date & Time

9th May 2023 | 13.30 - 15:00 IST (Bengaluru, India) | 5.00-6:30 pm (Seoul, Korea) | 9.00-10:30 am (London, UK) | 10:00-11:30 am (Berlin, Germany) | 10:00-11:30 am (Rome, Italy)

Speaker Profiles

Dr Christian Raffer works as economist for the German Institute of Urban, Germany

His research focus lies on local government finances and autonomy. Before he started his position at the German Institute of Urban Studies he worked for the Hertie School, Berlin, and the German development cooperation (GIZ) in South Africa. He is currently finalizing his PhD in public economics at the Freie Universität Berlin. He has published national and international research articles and edited volumes.

Benedetto Zacchioli, President The European Coalition of Cities Against Racism

A tireless traveller, cosmopolitan by vocation, mainly focusing on human rights, he always prefers the administration and the public space as a range within which to govern global processes. He was elected town councillor and appointed as deputy mayor for economic and social development, ICT innovation and international relations at the level of the metropolitan city of Bologna which counts 1 million citizens.

In the spring of 2016 was appointed by The Prime Minister as Chief of Cabinet, then as advisor of the General Secretary of the Italian government for the relations between the State and the religion's confessions, he is now Advisor for the Italian national Office against racism (UNAR) appointed by the Italian Ministry for equal opportunity.

He is currently President of ECCAR (European Coalition of cities against racism) and President of UNESCO ICCAR (International Coalition of Inclusive and

Sustainable Cities). As president of UNESCO ECCAR and ICCAR has spoken in numerous congresses and lectures around the world

Dr Yong Chang Jang, Chief Researcher, Centre for Deliberative Democracy & Environment

Dr Jang is the Chief Researcher at the Center for Deliberative Democracy and Environment, and a Part-time lecturer at Kyung-nam University in Korea.

Dr Jang has translated the book, *Deliberative Democracy Handbook: Strategies for Effective Civic Engagement in the Twenty-First Century* into Korean.

Matthew Robinson Director, EGIC Chairman, Northern Ireland Conservatives

Matthew Robinson is Director of the Euro-Gulf Information Centre in Rome, Brussels, Stockholm and also serves as the Chairman of the British Conservative Party in Northern Ireland. Matthew previously advised British Conservative Party Members elected to the European Parliament in Brussels and Strasbourg on issues ranging from foreign affairs, security and defence, international trade and domestic politics over three parliamentary mandates (2013-2020). This also included acting as the principal advisor for the Chairpersons of the EU Parliament's Delegation for Relations with Iraq and the the Delegation for Relations with South Asia.

Matthew also worked at the Program on America and the Global Economy (PAGE) at the Woodrow Wilson International Center for Scholars in Washington, D.C. (2010). He is a parliamentary approved candidate for the Conservative Party and was their candidate for the constituency of North Down in the 2019 UK General Election. He has appeared on numerous media outlets, including: the BBC, BBC Radio, Times Radio, GB News, NBC and MSNBC. Matthew is a qualified (non-practicing) lawyer (2011, LL.B Wales, 2012 LL.M Edin).

Matthew's recent major publications include:

2020—'L'asse israelo-sunnita di contenimento agli ayatollah,' *Formiche*, no. 162, 2020 pp.46-47.

2021—'Europe – A Geographical Expression or Unity of Purpose?,' in Caroline Varin (ed), *Global Security in Times of Covid-19: Brave New World?*, Palgrave Macmillan, London UK

Webinar proceedings

Dr Basavaraju: Calling upon the democracy champions from G20 nations set the context of the webinar series specifically the theme of Vasudeiva kutumbakam, and G20 being a participatory process. Webinar objective being to learn from the G20

nations Udaharans, examples, shared his observation that outcome of this webinar will have a balanced view as we have academicians and practitioners in the panel

Setting tone to the webinar he shared- Anything centralised is a problem- be it waste to wealth, if centralize it then becomes difficult to process it, to solve the issue. Decentralization is the solution to these, esp in the government context decentralization is further important. Unfortunately, more is spoken about decentralization and less is done. He further stressed upon India's move to a 3-tier government model as an attempt to decentralization. His observation was also that government seldom devolve power to decentralized agencies due to various reasons like fear of letting go, administrative issue, belief that lack of efficiency in the bureaucracy, lack of participation of community as reasons. Civil society has always played a role of a catalyst for bringing stakeholders together

Vas – decentralizing governance means practically bringing democracy back to the citizen, bringing it to a local level (as small a local level as possible).

Speaking about participating countries UK, Italy, Germany, & South Korea he spoke that each of whom have a fundamental role in democracy

UK a first functional democracy even though it's still a monarchic democracy

Italy- most decentralized democracies in the world,

Germany – which is a country that is built of communities at local level which rolls up to federal level

South Korea – long worked and dedicated itself to decentralizing of democracy

And India agglomeration of a lot of local, regional and sub national entities which have merged to form the nation

Dr Christian –

Speaking about the general trends over the last decade he spoke that there is a mega trend towards decentralization in OECD as indicated by subnational spending and revenue increase, the subnational authority / autonomy indices also seems to be pointing towards greater decentralization. *These reforms towards decentralization is motivated by quest for more local democratic control, greater efficiency in public service delivery and accountability for local development policies, regionalization for economies of scale, integrated regional development strategies*

Many countries globally seem to be working towards decentralization and theory behind decentralization

One of the theories (Musgrave's theory) focuses around three economic functions of the government – allocation, distribution, stabilization. Local government is not well positioned in redistributing income, because if it does then rich citizens will move away and poor will concentrate

Similarly local governments are not well positioned to establish own economic stabilization policies since economic growth, inflation and unemployment are determined on larger regional levels. They are better positioned in allocation of societies local resources (goods and services) not efficiently provided by market

Central level should focus on economic stabilization and redistribution of income / wealth

Regarding which and how much should be provided by local govt he mentioned that there are several theories like Tiebout sorting, decentralization theorem, and Yardstick competition

Going specifically into Oates decentralization theorem the basic assumption is that benevolent politicians and public servants strive to maximize citizen welfare. He further went to say but this could be unrealistic, the reality could be that politicians also follow their own agenda

as well like maximizing re-election possibilities, things like this could lead to fiscal deficit bias

♣♣regarding the risks of decentralization he pointed out

- Highly diversified citizen preference do not apply for developing countries
- Local politicians and administrations are in a principal agent situation
- Local provision of public goods may not be cost effective
- Decentralization may lead to less efficient central level
- Decentralization may lead to more corruption

He further went into the depth of political decentralization(decision making power, enforcement and citizen participation power), administrative decentralization(responsibility to provide administrative service at local level)and fiscal decentralization (budget and spending power)

♣♣Sweden as a great example of decentralization country – 2 sub national levels, 21 counties, 290 municipalities in the government structure . Self governing local authorities dealing with different responsibilities

♣♣Sharing guidelines for effective decentralization he spoke on

- Clarify responsibilities assigned at different government levels
- Ensure all responsibilities are sufficiently funded
- Strengthen subnational fiscal autonomy to enhance accountability
- Support subnational capacity building
- Build adequate coordination mechanisms across levels of government

- Support cross jurisdictional cooperation
- Strengthen innovative and experimental governance, and promote citizen engagement
- Allow and make the most of asymmetric decentralized arrangements
- Consistently improve transparency, enhance data collection, and strengthen performance monitoring
- Strengthen fiscal equalization systems and national regional development policies to reduce territorial disparities
-

Benedetto –

In his observations there is a gap between academics and the political stage, since the people that govern us are human beings and the human element is less captured in the academic work

The election time is the one time decentralization of the power is the cornerstone, maximum decentralization is visible, people can speak and design their government for future years in the context of decentralization of power we are speaking about power to do something, not power to be somebody. Eg from Italy – decentralization at the local level. *Decentralization of power is to give power to the citizen in between elections, to involve citizens its not just enough for citizen to be present at the election box every 5 or 7 years, but a process to gather the attention of the citizen and the possibility of them being effective in the governance of the city participation model.* Quoting examples

♣♣Barcelona – Decidim Catalunya means we decide – a platform that promises equal opportunities for all people as well as their proposal or contributions, equal starting opportunity for all participatory objects (proposals debates) review discussed evaluated without any discrimination. It could be any decisions Financial , or political – the platform had a mandate to commit to citizen to respond to all citizen queries in shortest time possible, to respond to those demands that has been requested for specific attention, study the incorporation of indicators to evaluate the implementation these provide transparency and accountability

If there is a discussion which has more reactions on the platform it should be taken to town council for detailed discussion and implementation

♣♣Bolonia – As an example of allocation of resources for different things, he spoke about financial resources allocation process- citizen after 1 year of meeting with politicians can bring projects which could make things better, this then goes to a public voting process, and the most voted project gets selected for implementation

Any areas like Taxation , health, education could be discussed- resources need to be distributed across all levels

Mathew Robinson – explained the phrase decentralization quoting Justice Louis Brandeis once said, “A single courageous state may, if its citizens choose, serve as a laboratory and try novel social and economic experiments without risk to the rest of the country.”

Added market decentralization alongside the other three factors political, administrative, and fiscal. Explained the devolution from a British stand point by using analogy of a Patch work quilt of devolution, on how certain powers on case-by-case basis are awarded to regions and quoted examples from devolution at Wales, Scotland to London

In the absence of a written constitution, parliament is King in terms of handing powers back to people to regional authorities. Decentralization has evolved over years

Motivating factors for decentralization – lifting the burden of bureaucracy, empowering communities to do things their way, increasing local control of finances, diversifying public services, opening up government to public scrutiny, bringing accountability to local people

Important component of decentralization being – citizen are unable to differentiate what type of powers are reserved at national level (security, taxation, defence trade policy), regional basis(health, ed, infra) and at local level (pot holes, recycling, street lamps)

♣♣Using Covid example he also brought about the discussion on the risk of decentralization of power

Dr Chang – Started with his observations and research findings that as capitalism expands in a society, individuals become more busier in making money, they reduce their participation in democracy and the democracy becomes weaker

Citizen need public goods like environment, culture , social welfare etc to survive

In this sense democracy itself is public goods , in order to strengthen democracy and decentralization citizen should be incentivized to produce public goods ranging from environmental services to social services like child care , and also social capital like trust and even politics

♣♣He further shared a South Korea example of how he led a project in which participative income or incentivization contributed to environment and social capital of trust and communication

9. Proceedings of Webinar 01

Theme

Strengthening Civil Society for Deepening Democracy,

Focus Area

Role of the State

Participating G20 Countries

US, Canada, Mexico, Indonesia

Date & Time

8th May 2023 | Time: 5:30 PM (IST)) | 8:00- 9:30 (Ottawa, Canada) | 8:00 - 9:30 (Mexico & Washington DC, USA) | 19:00 - 20:30 (Jakarta, Indonesia)

Speaker Profiles

Binny Buchori, Founder & Advisory Board The Prakasara, Indonesia

Binny Buchori is an experienced communication and stakeholder engagement advisor, with a wide civil society and strong political Network.

Binny has served as senior advisor to the Deputy Chief of Staff of the Executive Office of the President from 2015-2019. She has been involved in developing various multi-stakeholder forums, including facilitating the establishment of the Parliamentarian Green Economy Caucus at the Parliament (DPR), the Working Group on Sustainable Development at the Executive Office of the President and the Task Force on Papua. The Papua Task Force is assigned to provide strategic solutions for the development program in Papua, so that it benefits indigenous Papua.

Her career in civil society includes Executive Director of International NGO Forum on Indonesian Development (INFID), and Executive Director of Perkumpulan Prakarsa, a think tank that focuses on social policy.

John Miller Beauvoir, CEO Polticom, Canada

John is a published author and a field-tested international development practitioner with an 18-year track record of achievement in 18 countries across Africa, Asia and the Americas: a seasoned practitioner in the fields of democratic development, civil society engagement, local governance, parliamentary strengthening, countering violent extremism (CVE) and conflict mitigation.

He served as Senior Governance Advisor at USAID in Haiti before moving to West and Central Africa where he managed several projects in Mali, Chad, Niger,

Cameroon, Burkina Faso, Cote d'Ivoire, Togo, Guinea, Ghana, and Benin to address the root causes of violent extremism through good governance and social cohesion. In Canada, he managed several initiatives aiming at fostering participatory and inclusive democratic processes and human rights in Latin America and in the Caribbean (Bolivia, Colombia, Haiti).

Gloria Careaga, Academic – Activist, Co-Founder The UNAM Gender Studies Program, Mexico

Gloria Careaga is a feminist lesbian, originally from Guadalajara, Jalisco. In 1978 she emigrated to Mexico City to pursue her master's studies in social psychology. In 1979 she was incorporated to the Faculty of Psychology in The National University UNAM and since then she has been a professor and researcher there. She is identified as an academic activist; she is a co-founder of the UNAM Gender Studies Program, and of two LGBT NGO in México: Clóset de Sor Juana y Fundacion Arcoiris.

From 2008 to 2014 she was the ILGA Co-Secretary General and in 2018 became de Director of the HIV and Sexualities Program in the National Commission of Human Rights in México. She has been an active member of international networks in management and advocacy work in intergovernmental spaces. Her interest has focused on population, development and human rights highlighting feminism, masculinities and sexuality. Gloria's work has been awarded the Hermila Galindo Award and the Omecihuatl Medal in Mexico; Cenesex Award in Cuba and Felipa de Souza Award by OutRight International.

Doug Guthrie, Executive Director Marshall Goldsmith – 100 Coaches, USA

Doug is Professor of Global Leadership at the Thunderbird School of Global Management and Director of China Initiatives. Doug has spent his career researching, writing, teaching and advising companies about two topics: organizational development, where he has focused on issues of leadership, organizational culture and corporate social responsibility; and the Chinese economic reforms, where he has focused on the intersection of economic and political forces that lead to successful economic development models.

From 2014-19, Guthrie was a Senior Director at Apple, based in Shanghai China, where he led Apple University efforts on leadership and organizational development in China. Prior to joining Apple, from 2010-14, Guthrie was Dean of the George Washington School of Business, Vice President for University China Operations, and Professor of International Business. He served as Director of the Business Institutions Initiative at the Social Science Research Council (1999-2003) and was Academic Director of the Berlin School of Creative Leadership (2008-11).

Webinar proceedings

In the opening **Basavaraju** stressed on the G20 theme Vasudaiva Kutumbakam, his key message, at the outset of the G20 India Presidency the Honourable PM gave a call to make G20 a people's campaign and not a government's program. And that this webinar is for all to learn from G20 nation best practices and solutions, for problems and challenges we are facing from ages.

John Miller Beauvoir, shared his observations as an international development practitioner in 20 countries from West Africa to Asia and expressed that exploring the role of state as a positive factor in strengthening CSOs is very ambitious, bold and counter intuitive.

"State overall, government agencies or individual State agents can be a disruptive factor to CSOs by infringing the basic rights and liberties, weaponization of laws to establish restrictive environments for CSO, especially those dedicated to advocacy and watchdog."

With reference to studies from the University of Gothenburg, Sweden and Freedom House, he said that it is confirmed that there is a trend of backsliding in democracy across the globe. He emphasised that the CSOs as long as they are service providers are considered less threatening to the government. Governments in Canada, in the USA and elsewhere are usually sceptical of the CSOs in playing the role of a watchdog, he stated. He said that the G20 offers a forum of a unique combination of countries from the West and the global South to discuss and have a good conversation about such issues.

Further in his talk he referred to the Civil Society Sustainability Index published by the International Center for Not-For-Profit Law (ICNL) in partnership with FHI 360, and shared that the **Legal environment, Organisational capacities/structures, Financial viability and Advocacy** are the **foundational factors** that determine the role of the state in strengthening civil societies for delivery democracy. He particularly emphasised on Advocacy where in the CSOs should be able freely demand good governance and policy changes.

♣♣ Speaking of the relationship between the State and the Civil Societies in Canada, he said that the Think Tanks, NGOs and Civil Societies develop constructive relationships with policy makers and decision makers so that they can be shapers of the civil society space. Stating an example for this, he spoke about the National Youth Council, in which the Canada Prime Minister's Youth Council where the youth share the problems, concerns, challenges and advice to the Prime Minister and the Canadian Government. (structured space to voice of young people, constructive ways to engage

He further expressed that all the elements of the media are double-edged swords which can strengthen the practice of democracy but also become a hub for fake news and other such elements.

In closing comments he said that he observed CSOs from across the world are strategizing to protect and defend what they call the civic space and he is looking forward to hearing from

the other speakers and the relationship between the state and CSOs in their respective countries as it is open and constructive.

Binny Buchori expressed her happiness at being in such a diverse panel from across the world and introduced herself. She started off by stating that the state of global democracy has been stagnant since 2021, according to the Global Democracy Index published by the Economist Intelligence Unit. She reflected on the findings that only 8% of the global population lives in a country that is fully democratic and the questions that would raise among activists like what should we do, what kind interventions we should do to bring back democratic ecosystems. He further stated that the world is facing the challenge of sustaining democracy.

“We must remember that democracy lives in a different context than it was 20-30 years ago. It now lives in an ecosystem where the key players are not just the State, CSOs and Private sectors but also IT, Social Media and Artificial Intelligence (AI).”

Agreeing with John Miller, Binny Bichouri said that in a shrinking civic space, social media has become a haven for activists to hold the state accountable, promote transparency and participation. She further explained that on the contrary it has also become a space for fake news and misinformation that cause fear, uncertainties and doubt among the public.

She stated that the government has a role to initiate dialogue and persuade social media companies to practise good governance. Drawing differences between TikTok and other social media platforms, she explained that TikTok is encouraging people to develop creative content as they are not using social graph (user data) where as other social media platforms like Facebook and Instagram can promote fake news because they are targeting audience based on their user data.

She also drew attention to the development of Artificial Intelligence (AI) and how using AI generated content like copying public figures and their voices can be used to easily manipulate public opinion and called it a threat. She emphasised that civil society needs to be able to understand such challenges, adapt to this equation and gain more knowledge.

“It is in the interest of the government that it has a civic sphere that is not murky with fake news but is productive with positive conversation.”

♣♣ Giving the context of Indonesia, she said that the country had a very bad presidential election and that they were divided but got back together. She stated that the society and State should come together to encourage, inculcate and create a more safe space for tolerance.

In closing comments, Binny Buchori suggested that the government should provide capacity building to CSOs to adapt to the current challenging situations and not regulate but persuade social media to be responsible. She also put forward that there should be an agreement between countries on how they can be of help to each other to sustain democracy.

Gloria Careaga thanked the organisers for inviting her to be on the panel, and went on to speak about the current state of civil society organisations in Mexico and across the world. She expressed her interest to be a part of some of the ways that the civil society is organising to address the issues they are facing for a longtime. With disappointment, she said the things are only becoming more challenging by the day and that there is no existence of the inherent relationship between the concept of democracy and citizen participation.

She emphasised that countries need strong civil society with the possibility of open dialogue with the government and bring a rich consensus to government actions and public policies. She further added that it is important for civil society organisations to play an informative, consultative, deliberative and implicative role but it is difficult to fulfil these roles if the government does not establish systems that guarantee support of institutions.

Gloria Careaga stated that in Mexico, CSOs have been protagonists of the democratisation process for many years but it was not an easy path to become legitimate interlocutor from a social threat.

“Today we can certainly say that the proposals of the civil society organisations have resulted in the development of important frameworks and making reforms. Civil society projects have contributed to improving the quality of life of millions of people and have incorporated issues into public policy for an inclusive and more just country.”

Speaking on the relationship between the state and the civil society organisations, Gloria Careaga said that in the past 4-5 decades different authorities have recognised the work of CSOs to place issues on the public agenda. She further stated that although important progress has been made in this recognition, it is well known that social organisations face difficult situations, across the world. Giving examples from Latin America, she mentioned that some governments have discredited the work of CSOs, persecuted them and have shown animosity towards CSOs.

“In Nicaragua, since 2018, more than 3000 organisations have lost their official registration to government orders seeking to exercise an absolute controlled and silent society. Prosecuting those who have a different opinion and establish a single fort, violating the human rights of the Nicaragua people.”

Throwing light on the relationship between the state and the civil society, Gloria said that the current government has restricted any support to the CSOs from the public and the private sector harming not just the development but also mere sustenance of the organisations. She also mentioned that the government pointed out CSOs as enemies of the government and made allegations of corruption in a clear attempt to discredit.

“It is clear that when the government opens spaces for action and active participation organisations, listen and value their proposals, democracies strengthen while deterioration of democracies becomes evident when social organisations are discredited or persecuted.”

♣♣Speaking of the situation in Mexico, Gloria Cearega said fortunately there is a non-consistent government in Mexico that goes beyond economic limitations. The networks have expanded and the certain reports help us stay updated on the social realities we face today while strengthening ourselves.

In closing remarks, she said that the *Government* should be clear of which kind of society, country they are building. The civil society organisations, media and universities should come together and work for a better future, she concluded.

Doug Guthire greeted the panel and mentioned that he would not just speak on the role of the state in building in the civil society but also that of the corporations to strengthen the practice of democracy. He expressed that it is very interesting to think on the role of corporations in society but also the role of it for the civil society

Stating that the corporations have transformed drastically over the last 50 years, he blamed Milton Friedman, American Economist and Nobel Memorial Prize Winner in Economic Sciences for this change. He explained that Friedman's statement that the only responsibility of corporations is to increase profits of shareholders and has no responsibility to unions or civil society is very irresponsible. He further added that Friedman, however, won the argument that markets are the most efficient ways to allocate resources as we've seen a decline of the corporate role in the civil society and also the dramatic transformation of wealth from the working class group to the upper one percent group of the society.

"An important question is how we incentivize people and corporations to build a functioning civil society, one in which everyone is coming together to think cleverly and clearly to build a community level infrastructure."

♣♣Speaking of his study on American Corporations and how they are incentivized to build community level infrastructure said, with reference to China, in well functioning economic development systems there are central goals but also very decentralised players at the province that have all kinds of incentives to be entrepreneurial in their area, which was practised in the USA as well.

He also mentioned a study he conducted to map ways that corporations were giving back to build community level organisations in which it was observed that there has been a dramatic decline in participation in the last 50 years. He further added that it used to be in terms of what the corporations and individual citizens were contributing to cities and States in terms of their tax burden which was 50% each back then and is now held steady at 3%. He observed that this is a reflection of flight of capital and anti-unionization and also mentioned that even if corporations were still involved philanthropic operations they were only contributed to high profile international issues which led to the hollowing out of community level infrastructures that requires three players - State, Non - Profit Organisations and Corporations.

"Corporates have to be players in building a community level organization infrastructure that leads to a healthy civil society. What we've seen in the United States is a decline in that civil society, flight of capital in corporations and decline in democratisation. If you are not going to have a State that plays

an effective role thinking about how to moderate and build community level organisation infrastructure, you are going to fail."

In his closing comments, Doug Guthrie stated the example of the regressive Tax Reform Act of 1986 that lowered rates for corporations and wealthy individuals by a tremendous amount and also included low income housing tax credit. He went on to explain that though the Act looked like it set up incentives for corporations to get tax credit by investing in low income housing, it used the credit to create exciting civil society organisations that took up corporate resources, building community level organisations and then built low income houses. He concluded by saying that there are ways to create incentives at the federal and state level for corporates, NGOs and local governments to work together to build community level organisations and infrastructure that leads to a viable society and better democracy.

10. General Information

About G20:

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on all major international economic issues. India holds the Presidency of the G20 from 1 December 2022 to 30 November 2023. The G20 Presidency gives India a unique opportunity to strengthen its role in the world economic order. With the theme of 'Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam,' India is steering an ambitious, people-centric agenda to address global challenges and facilitate sustainable economic development.

Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam, which translates to "One Earth, One Family, One Future," is the theme of India's G20 presidency. It is inspired from the Maha Upanishad, an old Sanskrit scripture. Through a range of activities and events, India is striving to demonstrate its commitment to multilateral cooperation and building bridges between different countries and regions.

More about G20 India at: <https://www.g20.org/en/about-g20/#overview>

About C20:

C20 is one of the official Engagement Groups of the G20. It provides a platform for Civil Society Organizations (CSOs) around the world to voice people's aspirations with the world's leaders in G20. C20 also aims to protect the essence of the sector, promote social and economic development with the vision that no one should be left behind. Civil society culture in India has been shaped by illustrious gures such as Mahatma Basaveshwara, Dayanand Saraswati, Ramkrishna Paramahansa, Ishwar Chandra Vidyasagar, Mahatma Phule, Lokmanya Tilak, Mahatma Gandhi and Dr. Babasaheb Ambedkar. These gures have laid a foundation of self-motivated efforts to provide solutions to social problems. Continuing this tradition in post-independence India, Vinoba Bhave, Maharshi Karve, Baba Amte, and Sundarlal Bahuguna ensured that the spirit of volunteerism manifested in multiple ways. While considering the previous communiques and policy packs, India's C20 Presidency aims to focus on issues ranging from wellness to sewa (service) and from cyberspace to social justice.

Read more at: <https://civil20.net/c20-india-2023/about/>

Delivering Democracy Working Group

Under the G20 India has formed several working groups. Civil20 (C20) is one of the key engagement groups under G20. The C20's Delivering Democracy Working Group has hosted a variety of knowledge assimilation events, through in-person and virtual modes. The events ensured engagement of stakeholders from all the sections, and created a vibrant platform for discussion and debating of diverse national and international viewpoints. Finally, it enabled the working group to find a democratic direction derived from all the deliberations. The Delivering Democracy working group provided a platform for

Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) around the world to voice people's aspirations to world leaders in G20.

About GRAAM : The Secretariat of Delivering Democracy Working Group

GRAAM, a development research and policy engagement initiative in India that specializes in Governance and Democratization, Learning-Skill Development & Livelihood, Health and Wellness, and Tribal Development. Our expertise includes policy research, impact assessment, community engagement, policy engagement, strategic consultation, and academic programs. Working with all four key stakeholders of development - Government, Citizenry, Civil Society Organizations, and Corporates - we aim to empower grassroots communities by developing human and social capital. Our evidence-based research leads to actionable policy recommendations that incorporate community voices, resulting in citizen-centric public policy. Join us in driving sustainable change and positively impacting the world. More at www.graam.org.in

About HSF

The Hanns Seidel Foundation, established in 1967, is a German political foundation dedicated to political education for democracy, peace, and development globally. With nearly five decades of international cooperation, it engages in multiple projects worldwide. Including in India since 1996. In India, it supports federal-democratic structures, safety architecture, and regional dialogue, emphasizing capacity building aligned with social, political, cultural, and economic contexts. Through partnerships, dialogue, workshops, and conferences, the foundation strives to enhance local governance, women's empowerment, safety, and environmental conservation, contributing to sustainable development, peace, democracy, and rule of law in India.

11. Webinar Photos

Sample Marketing collateral

YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY - YOUTH LEAD DEMOCRACY

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

17TH MAY 2023

17.30 - 19.00 [IST] 9.00 - 10.30 [ART]
14.00 - 15.30 [SAST] 9.00 - 10.30 [BRT]

SPEAKERS

- Bruna Almeida**
International Relations Student - UnB2030 Brasília
- Tebogo Suping**
Executive Director, Programmes - Activator, Change Drivers South Africa
- Benedetto Zacchiroli**
President of the European Coalition of Cities against Racism - EOCAR ITALY
- Andrea Grobocopatel**
President and Founder, Fundación FLOR Foundation, Argentina
- Jagadananda J**
Mentor&Co Founder, CYSD MEMBER, India

India Co-ordinator

Support
Hanns Seidel Stiftung

Regional Co-ordinator
4Cysd

Academic Partner
GRAAM

Register in advance for this meeting: Scan the QR code / use the link
Website Link: rb.gy/zhghj

Webinar in progress

YOUTH FOR DEMOCRACY - YOUTH LEAD DEMOCRACY

INTERNATIONAL WEBINAR

17TH MAY 2023

SPEAKERS

- Bruna Almeida**
International Relations Student - UnB2030 Brasília
- Tebogo Suping**
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- Jagadananda J**
Mentor&Co Founder, CYSD MEMBER, India

India Co-ordinator

Support
Hanns Seidel Stiftung

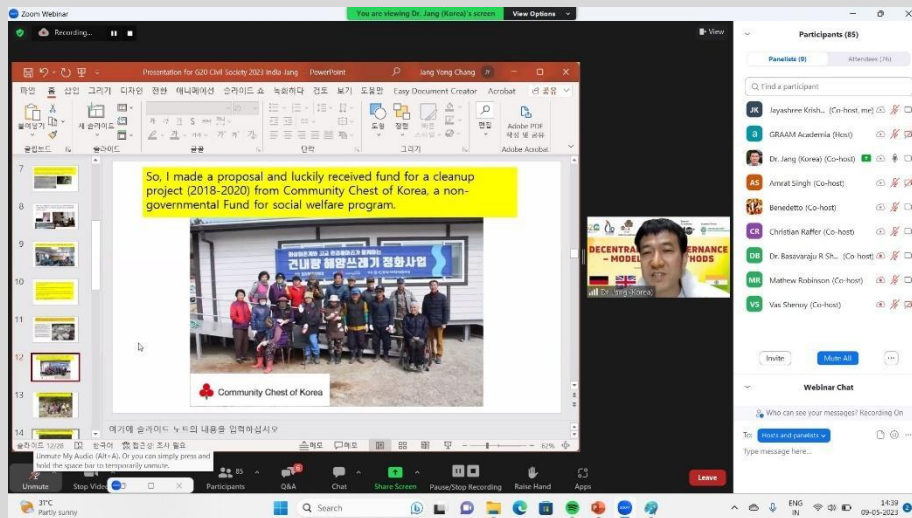
Regional Co-ordinator
4Cysd

Academic Partner
GRAAM

Participants:

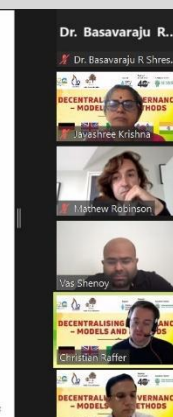
- Dr. Basavaraju
- Dr. Jang (Korea)
- Jayashree Krishna
- Mathew Robinson
- Vas Shanoy
- Anirudh Singh

Speakers at work



5. Guidelines for Effective Decentralisation (OECD)

- Clarify the responsibilities assigned to different government levels
- Ensure that all responsibilities are sufficiently funded
- Strengthen subnational fiscal autonomy to enhance accountability
- Support subnational capacity building
- Build adequate coordination mechanisms across levels of government
- Support cross-jurisdictional cooperation
- Strengthen innovative and experimental governance, and promote citizen's engagement
- Allow and make the most of asymmetric decentralisation arrangements
- Consistently improve transparency, enhance data collection and strengthen performance monitoring
- Strengthen fiscal equalisation systems and national regional development policies to reduce territorial disparities



12. Summary

The webinar series has been engaging, enlightening, and educational. Passionate and deep discussions by speakers led to gathering inputs using an outward to inside perspective. Speakers discussed global context, narrowed this to their local context and specific work that they are involved in. A good mix of challenges, solutions and best practices got shared. The inputs derived here will go into a policy brief document which will be presented in the national summit. We had 14 participating nations, also a great speaker from Turkey was identified. Search is on for the right speaker from China, Russia and Saudi Arabia.

Composition of the Working Group

Dr. Basavaraju R Shreshta

National Coordinator, Delivering Democracy Working Group, Civil20 - G20 & Executive Director - GRAAM

Mr. Benedetto Zacchioli

International Coordinator, Delivering Democracy Working Group, Civil20 - G20 & President of ICCAR (UNESCO International coalition of sustainable and inclusive cities), Italy

Members:

- **Mr. DM Kiran**, Sous-Sherpa, Civil20, India
- **Mr. Jagadananda**, Mentor & Co-Founder, CYSD, Odisha
- **Mr. Bhagavan Bidarakote**, Head- IIKCON, GRAAM
- **Mr. Devendra Pai**, Course Director, Indian Institute of Democratic Leadership, Mumbai
- **Mr. Atul Kulkarni**, Chairman, Amazing Namaste Foundation, Guwahati, Assam
- **Mr. Madhusudhan Hanumappa**, Social Development Lead and Head- COEESH, Bangladesh
- **Mr. Madhusudhan Sharma**, Sr. Program Officer, CUTS International, Rajasthan
- **Mr. Vas Shenoy**, Founder, Dialogue on Democracy, Italy
- **Ms. Hema Thakur**, Development Professional, New Delhi
- **Ms. Jayashree Krishna**, Academic Consultant, Bengaluru
- **Ms. Sunitha Reddy**, Program Manager, People Development Training Centre, Telangana