

C20 civil society forum advocates for peace, development, and the environment

21-23 April 2019, Tokyo, Japan



Four hundred civil society activists and campaigners from around the world participated in the Civil 20 ([C20](#)) Summit 2019 held in Tokyo.

The C20 is a forum for civil society to meet together, discuss urgent policy issues, and advocate to governments of the world's biggest economies on a broad range of issues on peace, development, and the environment.

The C20 is one of the seven Engagement Groups officially recognised by the Group of 20 (G20) to interact with and submit policy recommendations to the inter-governmental body. [ASPBAE's](#) Rene Raya represented the organisation and the [Global Campaign for Education](#) (GCE) in the C20 Summit.

The G20 is composed of 19 countries and the European Union representing two-thirds of the world's people and 85% of its economy. It counts among its members Australia, China, India, Indonesia, Japan, and the Republic of Korea from the Asia Pacific region. Japan took over the Presidency of the G20 and will host the [2019 G20 Summit](#) in Osaka from 28-29 June 2019.

Formed in 1999, the G20 initially served as a mechanism for ensuring global financial stability, but has developed to take on broader development issues with participation and input from international organisations and other stakeholders. Civil society has been recognised as a particular sector that engages the G20.

The C20 Summit formally began with a welcome and keynote speech from Yuka Iwatsuki, C20 Chair and President of [Action Against Child Exploitation](#) (ACE), who emphasised the urgency to address issues related to gender and social equity, justice and peace, and climate change.

The first day of the summit focused on a "Democracy Forum" to discuss peace, human rights, and democratic governance, followed by six thematic sessions to elaborate on these issues. The second and third days of the summit were highlighted by high-level sessions with the participation of the G20 Sherpa who represented Japan's Prime Minister Shinzo Abe as G20 President, and finance representatives for dialogues with the civil society participants.



A "Democracy Forum" held at the event discussed peace, human rights, and democratic governance, followed by six thematic sessions to elaborate on these issues.

On the second day of the summit meeting, the Education Working Group, in cooperation with [Japan NGO Network for Education](#) (JNNE), organised a breakout session on the 'Role of G20 on Education Financing.' The session aimed to inform the discussion of the forthcoming G20 Summit on the Human Capital Investment Initiative, which is one of the agendas for this year's meeting.

C20 civil society forum advocates for peace, development, and the environment

21-23 April 2019, Tokyo, Japan



Rene Raya (3rd from left), who was also representing the Global Campaign for Education (GCE), presented the trends and challenges of education privatisation in the Asia Pacific.

the Asia Pacific, noting that low financing affects most especially the poorest and most excluded groups, and drives privatisation of education that result in further discrimination and inequity in education.

Marco Grazia, of [World Vision International](#), discussed the urgency of education in countries facing emergencies, and that more funds are needed in these countries because education cannot wait.

The session, moderated by Yoko Ono of [Save the Children \(Japan\)](#), ended with a response from the Japanese government and from a representative of the European Union, who pledged to support the education financing agenda of civil society. The recommendations called for stronger commitments by the G20 to support free basic education of at least 12 years, ensure girl's education, and increase aid to strengthen the public education sector.

The C20 Summit culminated with a round of presentations reflecting the recommendations of the different sectoral working groups. These recommendations reiterated the [C20 Policy Pack 2019](#) which was earlier submitted to Japan's Prime Minister Abe who formally received the pack and expressed the same concerns on the widening gap in the globalised economy.

END

Eno Nakamura, of the [Development Education Association and Resource Center \(DEAR\)](#), started the session with a simulation exercise to visualise and dramatize the meagre budget allocated to education compared to the huge demand for quality education, and to military spending as an example. Naoko Shiroya, of [Plan International \(Japan\)](#) and JNNE, discussed the challenges in Japan's development assistance to education, noting that more and better aid should be given, especially to the poorest developing countries. Marcela Browne, of the [Ibero-American League of CSOs](#), and ASPBAE's Rene Raya spoke about the rising privatisation of education in their respective regions.

Rene Raya, who was also representing the Global Campaign on Education (GCE), presented the trends and challenges of education privatisation in