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# Final G20 Foreign Policy Think Tank Summit Joint Communique

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# Final G20 Foreign Policy Think Tank Summit Joint Communique

## **Abstract**

From the international conference *Global Challenges, Increasing Responsibilities: G20 Foreign Policy Think Tank Summit*.

## **Disciplines**

International and Area Studies | Public Affairs, Public Policy and Public Administration



## Global Challenges, Increasing Responsibilities G20 Foreign Policy Think Tank Summit An International Conference 3-5 June 2012

Final G20 Foreign Policy Think Tank Summit Joint Communique

A meeting of leading international think tanks from the G20 countries took place on the 3 – 5 June 2012 at the University of Pennsylvania (Philadelphia, USA).<sup>\*</sup> The summit included some sixty-two participants from twenty-two countries, including twelve think tank presidents, thirteen directors and deputy directors, five senior fellows, and three foundation executives.

The event was organized and cosponsored by the Fundação Getúlio Vargas (FGV) of Brazil, the Think Tanks and Civil Societies Program (TTCSP), and the International Relations Program of the University of Pennsylvania.

The rationale behind the meeting was to explore the influence of think tanks in the foreign policy elaboration process, and their role in this moment of global change and balance of power transformation in the international context. Furthermore, the conference aimed to address the changing agenda of the G20, which has recently expanded beyond the original goal of achieving the “stability of the financial system for development,” to include a range of important security issues creating a new space for Think Tanks dealing with the G20 activity.

The Keynote Speaker was Moises Naim, Ph.D., of the Carnegie Endowment for International Peace, and the Featured Speaker was Charles Kupchan, Ph.D., of Georgetown University. Program of work was presented by Dr. James G. McGann, Director of TTCSP, University of Pennsylvania. The Plenary Session, with the participation of think tanks presidents attending the meeting, was chaired by Carlos Ivan Simonsen Leal, Ph.D., President of FGV.

Deliberations in the various panels revolved around topics such as: (a) Tensions think tanks face as actors in the policy making process; (b) Security issues and the global economic crisis; (c) Foreign policy Think Tanks and the pursuit of excellence as the best way to maintain a degree of influence; (d) Challenges to independence stemming from proximity to governments; (e) Media and the work of think tanks and advocacy; (f) Think tanks and the value of a more focused approach to specific foreign policy problems; (g) Traditional and non-traditional security issues, and regional perspectives on the current

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<sup>\*</sup> Copies of the G20 Foreign Policy Think Tank Summit Report, which summarizes the proceedings and provides a list of the participating institutions, are available upon request.

state of security in international affairs, including the supremacy and “declinism” of the West; (h) Impact of emerging powers and the G20; (i) “Changing of the rules of the game” given the new paradigms and new partners according with the view from the global south; and, (j) Future of the G20 and G20 think tanks to address traditional and non-traditional security issues.

Deliberations showed a strong degree of interest and coincidences in the issues under consideration and in the need to strengthen the role and independence of think tanks dealing with G20 agenda. Consensus was achieved regarding the importance of the G20 as a more informal, practical, and consensus-based alternative to the lack of representativeness of many multilateral institutions, and regarding the usefulness of rating think tanks based on quality, independence, and concentration in international issues. Participants agreed that think tanks without public funding deserved to be protected and consulted.

Participants agreed to keep contact in order to update the topics discussed and consider the possibility of further meetings to continue reviewing the G20 agenda from an independent, theoretical, and practical point of view.

Participants expressed gratitude to the University of Pennsylvania and to the group of students that cared for the logistic and organizational matters of the Conference.

The University of Pennsylvania and TTCSP expressed their willingness to continue to facilitate and further the important discussions begun at the conference through the development of a global network of think tanks, proposing further regional, global, and thematically-based future meetings. The goal of such meetings would be to use to add to the exchange of ideas and information among the world’s leading think tanks and to help build a worldwide network of think tanks with the assistance of the Internet and social media.

Participants congratulated the governments of Mexico and Brazil for the preparatory work and for hosting the Conferences of the G20 in Los Cabos and Rio +20 on development and environment. They further concluded that, in view of the complex challenges countries face today, think tanks should develop a variety of mechanisms that will help improve the quality and level of public policy analysis while fostering greater cooperation on a range of regional and global issues.

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