

Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion Third Plenary Meeting

Co-Chairs' Summary

2 October 2020, Virtual Meeting

On October 2nd, 2020, the GPF members met for the third GPF Plenary Meeting under the G20 Saudi Presidency and their second virtual meeting since the COVID-19 crisis.

The G20 Saudi Presidency introduced the session, with an overview of the GPF achievements in 2020, including **the GPF Seminar on Digital Financial Inclusion**, held in Riyadh in January 2020 and the endorsed **G20 High-Level Policy Guidelines on Digital Financial Inclusion for Youth, Women, and SMEs** by Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors (FMCBGs) in July. The G20 Saudi Presidency noted the GPF's support for the G20 Action Plan through the **GPF Statement on COVID -19 Response** in June 2020 and the circulation of **Country Measures and Experiences in Mitigating the Impact of COVID-19** to members in October 2020.

In the first session, the G20 Saudi Presidency provided an overview of the work achieved under the 2017 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) and the **FIAP Progress Report for 2017-2020**. The G20 Saudi Presidency also updated members on the completion of the **"GPF Work Program and Structure: A Roadmap to 2020"**. In addition, the G20 Saudi Presidency presented the final **G20 2020 Financial Inclusion Action Plan (2020 FIAP)** and **GPF Terms of Reference 2020**, approved by GPF members in September.

The action areas and deliverables in the 2020 FIAP reflect the GPF's response to the COVID-19 outbreak, through an impact assessment and the required mitigating actions, and are aligned with the prioritized topics (Digital Financial Inclusion and SME Finance).

In the second session, the upcoming Italian G20 Presidency set out an overview of its focus areas and priorities for 2021. Under the Italian G20 Presidency, the GPF's work will continue to adhere to the streamlined program and focus on the priorities outlined in the 2020 FIAP, to ensure the effectiveness of the GPF's work.

The agenda of the Italian G20 Presidency will be focused on the motto “**People, Planet, and Prosperity.**” Under the Italian G20 Presidency, the priorities of the GPFi will foresee a stocktaking analysis to uncover the gaps in financial inclusion – or the new risks of financial exclusion – generated by the pandemic outbreak and the ensuing acceleration in the digitalisation process. In order to making up the most from the lessons learned, two main and complementary areas of intervention will be assessed. On the one hand, an increase in digital financial “awareness” of individuals and MSMEs, also delivered through digital means. On the other hand, a fostering of a more “inclusive” regulation and supervision, able to steer and encourage the development of inclusive and responsible digital financial services while granting an adequate protection of the final customer. The Italian G20 Presidency also intends to conduct a survey to measure the digital financial literacy of MSMEs, supported by the OECD.

Furthermore, the upcoming long-term GPFi Co-Chairs (Italy and Russia) presented their Workplan for 2021 under the 2020 FIAP. The priority deliverables for 2021 will be to assess the implications of COVID-19 on individuals and SMEs and the role of digital financial inclusion to mitigate negative impacts, as well as to provide recommendations on how to respond to the challenges and risks posed by digital financial inclusion. In 2021, progresses on the remittance front will be assessed through the biennial update on the National Remittance Plans, with a focus on the impact of COVID-19 on such relevant capital flows.

In conclusion, the G20 Saudi Presidency expressed gratitude to Japan for their support and contribution in their role as part of the GPFi Troika over the last three years and welcomed India to the Troika as the incoming G20 Presidency in 2022. The G20 Saudi Presidency concluded the meeting by thanking all GPFi members for their support in 2020 and wished Italy a successful G20 Presidency in 2021.