From the F20 Mission Statement signed by more than 40 national and international foundations, September 2016:

Foundations and philanthropic organizations, call for common and transnational action towards a zero carbon economy and a successful implementation of the 2030 Agenda. We seek to establish an open dialogue serving to highlight solutions but also potential barriers to progress whilst attempting to motivate other actors to initiate sustainable transformation processes. In doing so, this platform strives to send a conclusive signal to governments that civil society has a crucial role to play in global sustainability processes.

Acting together can facilitate overcoming barriers and limitations, showcase by many positive examples in all parts of the world.
**F20 is an international platform of foundations that envisage**

- to further strengthen their self-commitment to increase their own sustainability efforts within its own organizational context
- to further shape the dialogue of the G20 States with reference to the UN frameworks and to emphasize the role of the civil society

**The role and the three major functions of the F20 platform**

- F20 as an enabler and bridge-builder between non-state actors, such as businesses and civil society organizations, governments and philanthropic institutions
- F20 as a sounding board for foundations within and beyond the G20 process on particular issues related to climate change, renewable energy and the shrinking space for many civil society organisations
- F20 as a global learning platform for improved cooperation, interlinking foundations globally and suggesting a variety of mutually complementary opportunities

F20 is convinced that only a new level of international collaboration and transformational partnerships will be able to solve the global challenges the world is facing today. Foundations are an important catalyst in this endeavor.

1. **Current situation / status and purpose of this document**

   After the implementation of *Phase I (2016/2017)* of the F20 initiative the feedback from all participating foundations was overwhelmingly positive. During this phase, F20 has been successfully established from an idea to now more than 40 participating foundations from around the world. The main event on July 4th 2017, where the F20 publication was presented was a great success. F20 has indeed become an unprecedented alliance “aiming to provide pathways towards sustainable development” (Mission Statement). At the F20 Assembly, where 26 foundations participated on July 5th, it was unanimously stated that this platform must continue and needs to proceed to *phase 2 (2018-2020)*.

2. **Future role and three major function of the F20 Platform**

   1. **F20 (also) points towards the year 2020** – with its label F20, our initiative will also refer to the year 2020 as important milestone for the implementation of the the Paris Agreement
   2. **F20 will keep its independency** – F20 will remain independent as a group and does not want to become an official G20 engagement group
   3. **F20 will focus on climate finance** - climate finance will be, with immediate effect, the focus of our work, and will be enclosed to our mission statement.
   4. **F20 will work with regional hubs** to strongly support the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the Paris Agreement on the national and regional level of the G20 countries
3. Next programmatic steps

- Establish a work relationship with F20 partners in Argentina for the G20 summit in 2018 and in Japan in 2019
- Plan and prepare for F20 activities at the COP 23 in Bonn and draft the F20 work program for G20 in Argentina
- Invitation of additional foundations (especially in the United States and foundations from G20 countries that are not yet represented on the platform)

Additional possible outreach activities:

- Second edition of the F20 publication at the G20 summit in Argentina
- A major event prior to the G20 summit in Buenos Aires
- Increase media presence through media statements on issues related to our core F20 subjects (e.g. divestment)
- Establishing a closer work relationship with future G20 Presidencies

4. Proposal for future structure and development of F20

The Steering Group envisages the establishment of a continuous and permanently installed F20 Head Office formally hosted by one of the participating foundations. The Michael Otto Foundation has kindly offered to provide this institutional home of the F20 Secretariat at least until the year 2020 (Phase II). The accountability of the team and the reporting certainly remains within the Steering Group. Apart from the benefit of having the necessary infrastructures available, this structure would ensure a reliable and successful implementation of the F20 work program for the next three years. (For further tasks and responsibilities of the F20 Head Office please refer to the long version of the Development Plan)

Local G20 Secretariats

Apart from a permanent F20 Secretariat (F20 Head Office) the Steering Group also recommends Local G20 Secretariats in the respective G20 host country. These would be operating in close collaboration with the F20 Head Office and in charge of determining the substantive focus of F20 activities within the respective G20 process.
This includes the implementation of events and projects in the respective G20 host country that are all closely coordinated with and supported by the F20 Head Office. (For further tasks and responsibilities of the F20 Head Office please refer to the long version of the Development Plan)

**Regional Hubs:**
In addition to F20 Head Office and Local G20 Secretariats, the Steering Groups encourages the building of **F20 Regional Hubs such as an F20 Asia or F20 Europe.** In coordination with the F20 Head Office and the F20 Steering Group, foundations can establish a regional hub of F20 any time. Regional Hubs are built on the basis of the mission statement and are fully in line with the concrete activities of F20 and all outreach and communication activities of F20. They have their own budget responsibility and reporting to the F20 Steering Group.

5. **Proposal for future basis of F20**

F20 seeks to remain a joint cooperation project among all participating foundations. It does not envision the establishment of an independent entity. It will shape its ‘code of conduct’ in a Memorandum of Understanding (MoU) or a cooperation agreement with each participating foundation.

The cooperation agreement among all participating foundations will entail

- that F20 is a joint cooperation of all participating foundations
- that F20 operates in the spirit of the mission statement
- every foundations contribution to the joint F20 project (with reference to the suggested allocation of costs as outlined below)
- a reference to the governance structure and the Steering Group as the decision making entity

6. **Requirements for the successful operation of the permanent F20 Secretariat**

In order to successfully run a permanent F20 Secretariat, while ensuring a minimum flexibility for the organization of events and outreach activities an annual budget should be provided and agreed by the participating foundations. Numbers are certainly subject to further developments and the growth of the platform. A rough estimation of an annual budget for F20 would be at € 500,000 per year (draft budget please refer to the long version of the Development Plan)

7. **Next steps to initiate phase II:**

- Closing of Phase I
- Setting up a project-agreement with Michael Otto Foundation for initiating phase II (Oct-Dec 2017)
- Hosting and coordinating Steering Group Meetings
- Drafting and agreeing cooperation agreements
- Inviting new foundations

End