

# TO THE G20 LEADERS OF

*Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, France, Germany, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Republic of Korea, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, Turkey, the United Kingdom, the United States, and the European Union*



## **INTELLECTUAL PROPERTY RIGHTS FOR A SUSTAINABLE, FAIR, AND FREE WORLD**

We, the undersigned pro-market think tanks applaud the heads of state attending the G20 Leaders' Summit. Emerging complex issues such as digitalization changing the future of work; adapting health systems to meet crises and pandemics; and securing sustainable free-trade between nations demand the full-attention of all world governments.

A key- people centered- ingredient to address these issues must be robust enforcement of intellectual property rights (IPRs). These rights allow individuals to own their work and control its use – forming the basis of a market system that helps release the inventive capacity of the world's innovators.

IPRs are crucial to small and large companies to secure the investments they need to bring innovative products and services to market, and they allow research and development to take place across borders. As such, they are a crucial underpinning of the knowledge industries which increasingly drive economic growth.

Yet, more needs to be done. Despite more than twenty years of the WTO TRIPS Agreement, to which all G20 countries are signatories, online piracy, and trade in counterfeit goods amounting to \$461 billion, or 2.5 percent of global imports, continues to plague the world economy. Many countries have yet to reform their patent laws to take account of TRIPS, resulting in an uneven playing field that undermines global rates of innovation.

Only 13 percent of the world's population live in countries that enjoy high levels of IPRs protection, according to the 2018 International Property Rights Index (IPRI). Their citizens are also some of the wealthiest in the world with a per capita income 20 times greater than those with the weakest IPRs protections and are responsible for producing 60 percent of the world's GDP. Reducing this inequality must be a key focus of the G20.

G20 leaders have demonstrated a commitment to gender inclusivity as a cross-cutting issue. Here again, the protection of IPRs can help. Countries that protect IPRs have more women inventors and score highly as environments that fosters female entrepreneurship. When IP rights and other property rights are secure countries also benefit from more civic participation.

IPRs also help reduce health inequalities by promoting medical innovations that save lives. We are concerned by suggestions from certain G20 members that inventors' rights in the health sector should be weakened. .

IP rights are human rights; they drive economic growth; protect consumers from dangerous or substandard products; and allow individuals to contribute their own talents to solving the world's most pressing issues. We therefore call upon G20 leaders to affirm their commitment to the protection of IPRs.



**Aldo Abram**  
Director  
Executive Director  
Libertad y Progreso  
Argentina



**Federico N. Fernández**  
President  
Fundación Internacional  
Bases  
Argentina



**Garret Edwards**  
Director of Legal Research  
Fundación Libertad  
Argentina



**Satya Marar**  
Policy Director  
Australian Taxpayers' Alliance  
Australia



**Vladimir Maciel**  
Director  
Mackenzie Center for Economic  
Freedom  
Brazil



**Peter Holle**  
President  
Frontier Centre for Public Policy  
Canada



**Ryan Khurana**  
Executive Director  
Institute for Advancing  
Prosperity  
Canada



**Eudes Baufreton**  
Director  
Contribuables Associés  
France



**Pietro Paganini**  
Curiosity Officer  
Competere  
Italy



**Masaru Uchiyama**  
President  
Japanese for Tax Reform  
Japan



PAI

**Yuya Watase**  
President  
Pacific Alliance Institute  
Japan



**Kyungjin Song**  
Chair of International Cooperation  
Innovative Economy Forum  
Republic of Korea



**Juan E. Pardinás**  
General Director  
El Instituto Mexicano para la  
Competitividad (IMCO)  
Mexico



FREE MARKET FOUNDATION  
**Jasson Urbach**  
Director  
Free Market Foundation  
South Africa



**Bican Şahin**  
President  
Freedom Research  
Association  
Turkey



**Philip Stevens**  
President  
Geneva Network  
United Kingdom



**Christopher Snowden**  
Head of lifestyle  
economics  
Institute of Economic  
Affairs  
United Kingdom



**Lisa B. Nelson**  
CEO  
American Legislative Exchange  
Council  
USA



**Grover Norquist**  
President  
Americans for Tax Reform  
USA



**Lorenzo Montanari**  
Executive Director  
Property Rights Alliance  
USA



**Timothy Andrews**  
Executive Director  
Taxpayers' Protection  
Alliance  
USA