

Key note by: **Martin Tsounkeu**  
*General Representative, Africa Development Interchange Network (ADIN)*

Excellences' Government Representatives, Honourable Lord Mayor of the City of Hamburg, Distinguished Guest, Ladies and Gentlemen, all due protocol respected,

## **Guten Abend**

My voice, today, does not belong to me!

It is the voice of several hundreds of Civil Society Representatives, from all over the World, who mobilized for the Civil20 Summit that the City of Hamburg has kindly offered to host this year, a special year in an ever changing World. It is also the voice of all the pioneers of the Civil Society movement around the G8 initially and the G20 today, who may not be presently with us here. Allow me, Lord Mayor, to thank you for your welcome words and sincerely extend the gratitude of the Civil20 family to you. We are really grateful for the space that your city is providing to us, for this reception and the C20 Summit in general.

You may all recall that where we are coming from, with regard to the Civil Society activism around one of the most powerful international instances (I mean the G20), is not anywhere near. We have had a very long and difficult journey to get to this stage, at a point where we (the Civil Society) can hence interact frankly and in a structured manner, with World Leaders, to deal with global issues that matter for the well-being of World populations. This actually is the role that the Civil20 commits for and I, personally, am honoured and lucky to have witnessed and be part of this process since inception.

The Civil20's journey has not been an easy one. It is just like the journey that the entire World is having toward sustainable development. It is a journey of gloomy changes on a path paved with a series of renewed and growing challenges: environmental, social and financial. But it could also be a journey of glary transformative changes that hopefully can help us shape good solutions to face global challenges, as we go about implementing the 2030 Agenda for sustainable development. It could be a journey after which we are able to control climate change, thanks to responsible behaviour and effective global response.

We have no doubt that the work of the Civil20, presently culminating with the 2017 Civil20 Hamburg Summit, will eventually result into actionable proposals which the G20 will be willing to implement. However, we also are aware that in order to succeed in that task, it takes more than mere exchanges or communication on critical global issues. A profound transformative global cooperation, based on mutualised and collective effort, is urgently needed.

The German Presidency of the G20 allows hope for that, considering the focus on Africa for instant, and the related partnership initiatives, with a view to investing in a common future. This, however, will have to be processed into a concrete realty that fully takes the expectations of African citizens into account, and that effectively aligns with the African Union's Agenda 2063. You will bear with me that, coming from Africa and as a Member of the CSO African Working Group on Sustainable Development, I cannot fail to mention this, in conveyance of the African people's message of hope and thanks.

With this I once more thank you all very much, und **Vielen Dank !**