



**RIS**  
Research and Information System  
for Developing Countries  
विकासशील देशों की अनुसंधान एवं सूचना प्रणाली

**Side event organized at the occasion of the T20 Summit, Milano, Bocconi University, for the book launch of *INTERSECTING. On Sustainable Responses to the Covid-19 Pandemic***

**Infrastructure and Development: New Perspectives, New Solutions to Recover from the Covid-19 Crisis**

**6.10.21 - 11.00 am - 12.15 pm (CET) – Hybrid event**

### Concept Note

The COVID-19 pandemic and climate crises altogether show the complex interconnectedness of the 21st century-world and highlight a growing need to overcome isolated and networked approaches all alike. To create the backbone of a more sustainable future, countries need to improve infrastructure stock of all types-physical, social and digital.

Quality and resilient infrastructure can act as catalyst and help rebuild the economies and societies in the post-COVID era. Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) could only become a reality by 2030 if solid infrastructure is in place. At the same time, time has come to rethink infrastructure finance and recognize other factors affecting infrastructure creation and maintenance especially in low-income countries.

New technologies offer solutions to bridge gaps in infrastructure provision and unleash contribution of various forms of infrastructure to the process of development and change. The symbiotic linkage between infrastructure and development needs to be harnessed efficiently. It would require countries working at the crossroads of different disciplines and policy areas.

To create new synergies among emerging and developed countries in times of multiple geopolitical and knowledge fragmentations, effective responses to the current crises call for unprecedented degrees of cooperation.

New-age infrastructure meeting the necessary properties of sustainability, quality, resilience and inclusion in health, education, urban management, governance, agriculture, skill development, etc would possibly help recover the world in the coming years and activate new sources of growth such as digital economy, fintech and start-ups.

### Key questions

1. How to ensure quality and resilient infrastructure in countries without compromising the growth and job creation ambitions in view of COVID-related economic distress?



2. How to leverage new infrastructure e.g. digital infrastructure, fintech for stimulating economic activity and promoting trade and investment?
3. How G20 could bridge the knowledge gap and foster cooperation and collaboration in infrastructure sectors?
4. Is there any need for new funding models, risk mitigation frameworks and governance structures for efficient execution of infrastructure projects?

## Agenda

Bocconi University GEO- GREEN Center, with the Research and Information System for Developing Countries (RIS), New Delhi are convening a high-level panel discussion on the theme *Infrastructure and Development: New Perspectives, New Solutions to Recover from the COVID-19 Crisis*.

The meeting will also feature the launch of *INTERSECTING, Sustainable responses to the Covid-19 pandemic*, incubated and distributed by the Global Solutions Initiative. *INTERSECTING* has mobilized 96 co-authors from across G20 countries since the pandemic outbreak on new ways to build and implement sustainable responses to the COVID-19 pandemic.

11.00 - 11.10	<b>Opening</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Edoardo CROCI</b>, Coordinator of GEO - Green Economy Observatory, Bocconi University, co-author of INTERSECTING and host of the panel</li> <li>• <b>Nicolas J.A. BUCHOUD</b>, co-editor of INTERSECTING, President of the Grand Paris Alliance</li> </ul>
11.10 - 11.30	<b>Keynote addresses</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Sachin CHATURVEDI</b>, Director General, RIS- New Delhi (online)</li> <li>• <b>Dean Tetsushi SONOBE</b>, CEO, Asian Development Bank Institute, Tokyo (online)</li> </ul>
11.30 - 12.00	<b>Respondents</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Riatu MARIATUL QIBTHIYYAH</b>, Director, LPEM FEB UI, Jakarta (online)</li> <li>• <b>Raja AL MARZOQI</b>, Professor, Economic Division, Institute for Diplomatic Studies, Riyadh</li> <li>• <b>Henri de GROSSOUVRE</b>, Director for think-tanks, SUEZ, Paris</li> </ul>
12.00 - 12.15	<b>Closing remarks</b> <ul style="list-style-type: none"> <li>• <b>Dennis J. SNOWER</b>, President, Global Solutions Initiative, Berlin</li> </ul>

Moderator Nicolas J.A. BUCHOUD