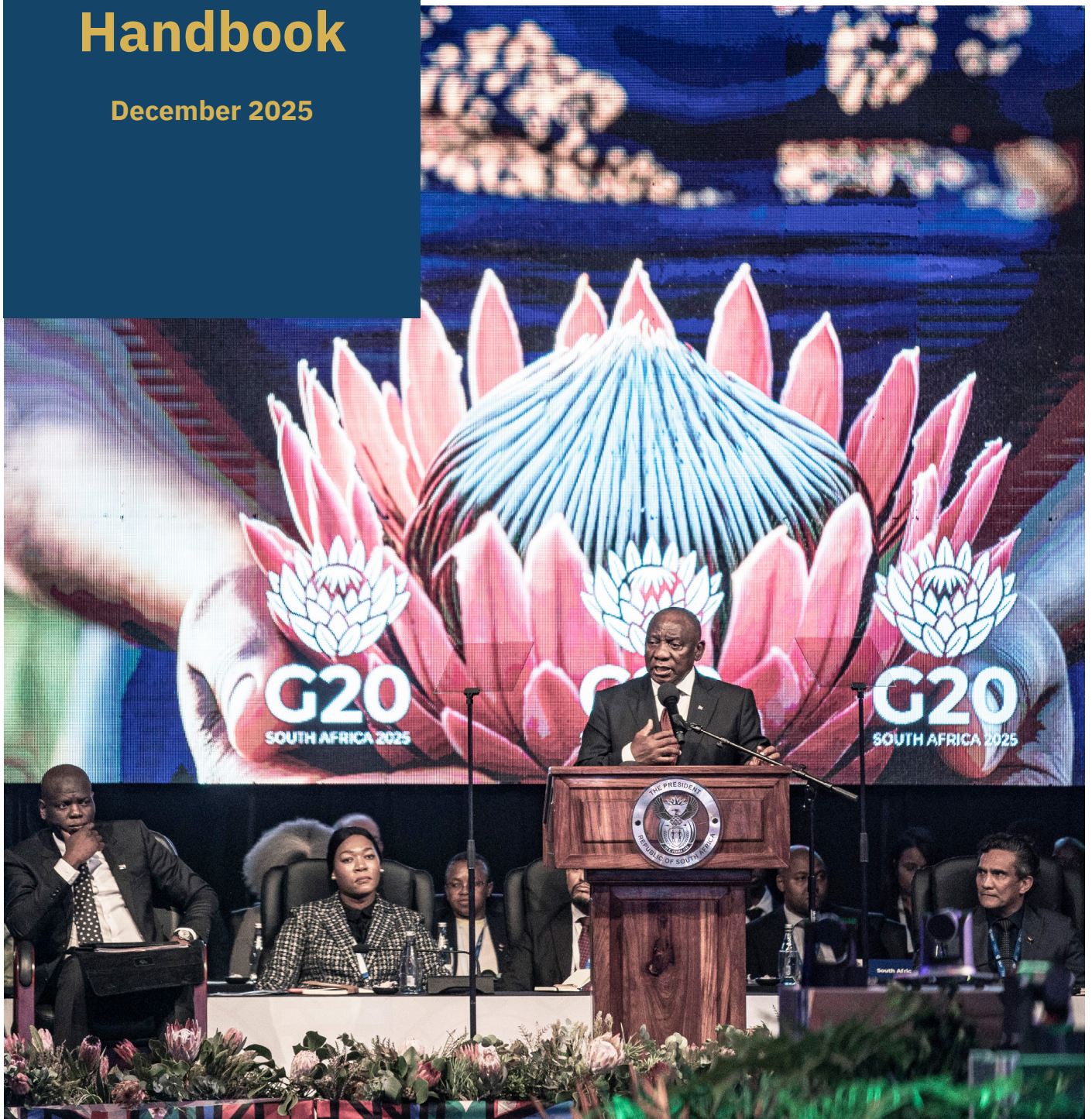


Handbook

December 2025



G20 Commitments to Africa: A Handbook on Implementation (2008–Present)

MARGAUX GIANNAROS & KRISSMONNE OLWAGEN

African perspectives
Global insights

Executive summary

This handbook provides a comprehensive analysis of G20 commitments related to Africa across the first cycle of G20 presidencies (2008–2025), tracing the evolution, implementation and policy impacts of these commitments, directly and indirectly. It outlines the progress of African issues on the G20 agenda since the G20's elevation to the heads of state level in 2008. These issues include programmes on food security, infrastructure, energy access and climate finance, alongside deeper reforms in international economic governance and global financial stability.

Key findings of the handbook show that the G20 has fostered partnerships such as the Compact with Africa and green infrastructure partnerships and enhanced support during global crises like COVID-19. However, progress has often been uneven and implementation gaps persist, especially in critical areas like infrastructure investment, debt sustainability and mobilisation of significant climate finance. The African Union's status as a permanent G20 member since the end of 2023 marks a new stage in the continent's global integration efforts.

The handbook maps G20 outcomes relating to African priorities, as articulated in the AU Agenda 2063, and finds that, while there is substantial alignment, particularly in economic integration and sustainable development, gaps remain in member countries' support for peace, inclusion and institutional capacity. South Africa's G20 presidency has prioritised solidarity, equality and sustainability, emphasising regional resilience, management of critical minerals, food security and digital transitions as areas for focused collective action in the future.

The handbook concludes that to be fully effective, G20 engagements must ensure systematic follow-through and accountability, must narrow their focus to transformative priorities, and must provide stronger platforms for African voices and regional leaderships. The handbook recommends deeper G20–Africa cooperation in policy design and the effective measurement of developmental outcomes, as well as strategic alignment with the continent's goals as the group enters the second cycle of G20 presidencies.

Abbreviations & acronyms

AAG	Africa Advisory Group
ACET	African Center for Economic Transformation
AEOI	Automatic Exchange of Information
AfDB	African Development Bank
AfECN	African Early Childhood Network
AgCoP	GEO Agriculture Community of Practice
AGIR	<u>Global Initiative for Resilience in Sahel and Western Africa</u>
AI	artificial intelligence
AMIS	Agricultural Market Information System
AREI	Africa Renewable Energy Initiative
ASQIIA	<u>Accelerating and Scaling-up Quality Infrastructure in Africa</u>
AU	African Union
BEPS	base erosion and profit shifting
BEPS IF	Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting
BRI	Belt and Road Initiative
COP	Conference of the Parties
CwA	Compact with Africa
DeMPA	Debt Management Performance Assessment
DSSI	Debt Service Suspension Initiative
DWG	Development Working Group
ECD	early childhood development
ECOWAS	Economic Community of West African States
EIB	European Investment Bank
EMDEs	emerging markets and developing economies
EMPOWER	Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation
EOI	Exchange of Information
EU	European Union
FDI	foreign direct investment
FIAP	Financial Inclusion Action Plan
FSB	Financial Stability Board
GAfSP	Global Agriculture and Food Security Program

CBFA	Global Blended Finance Alliance
GDP	gross domestic product
GEOGLAM	<u>Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring</u>
GHG	greenhouse gases
GPE	Global Partnership for Education
GPFI	Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion
G-SIFIs	Global Systemically Important Financial Institutions
IEG	Independent Expert Group
IFAD	International Fund for Agricultural Development
IFIs	international financial institutions
ILO	International Labour Organization
IMF	International Monetary Fund
IRIWI	International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement
IsDB	Islamic Development Bank
LDCs	least-developed countries
LICs	low-income countries
LIDCs	low-income developing countries
LMICs	low- and middle-income countries
MDBs	multilateral development banks
MDGs	Millennium Development Goals
MICs	middle-income countries
MENA	Middle East and North Africa
MYAP	Multi-Year Action Plan
NEPAD	New Partnership for Africa's Development
ODA	overseas development assistance
OECD	Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development
OFA	One Future Alliance
PARM	Platform for Agricultural Risk Management
PIDA	Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa
PPFs	Project Preparation Facilities
PPPs	public-private partnerships

REAP	Renewable Energy Access Programme
RST	Resilience and Sustainability Trust
SCF	Strategic Climate Fund
SDGs	Sustainable Development Goals
SDRs	special drawing rights
SFWG	Sustainable Finance Working Group
SIDS	small island developing states
SMART	specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound
SREP	Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program in Low-Income Countries
TICAD	Tokyo International Conference on African Development
UN	United Nations
UNCTAD	United Nations Conference on Trade and Development
UNICEF	United Nations Children's Fund
WB	World Bank
WBG	World Bank Group
We-Fi	Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative
WTO	World Trade Organization

Cover image

G20 Foreign Minister's Meeting 2025: South African President Cyril Ramaphosa speaks at the first Foreign Minister's Meeting of South Africa's G20 Presidency (Per-Anders Pettersson/Getty Images)

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Please note that all currencies are in US\$ unless otherwise indicated.

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Acknowledgement

SAIIA gratefully acknowledges the support of the Konrad Adenauer Foundation for this publication. The publication was also supported by a grant from the Open Society Foundations.

This publication draws from the findings of a paper authored by Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Margaux Giannaros, Krissmonne Olwagen and Joseph Matola.*

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* Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, Joseph Matola, Margaux Giannaros and Krissmonne Olwagen, May 2024, [G20 and African Interests Economic Research Southern Africa](#).

Contents

Executive summary	2
Abbreviations & acronyms	3

INTRODUCTION	8
---------------------	----------

PART 1	9
---------------	----------

A summary of Africa-related outcomes from G20 summits	9
2008 Washington DC Summit, US	9
2009 London Summit, UK	9
2009 Pittsburgh Summit, US	10
2010 Toronto Summit, Canada	11
2010 Seoul Summit, South Korea	11
2011 Cannes Summit, France	12
2012 Los Cabos Summit, Mexico	14
2013 St Petersburg Summit, Russia	15
2014 Brisbane Summit, Australia	16
2015 Antalya Summit, Turkey	16
2016 Hangzhou Summit, China	17
2017 Hamburg Summit, Germany	18
2018 Buenos Aires Summit, Argentina	21
2019 Osaka Summit, Japan	21
2020 Riyadh Summit, Saudi Arabia	22
2021 Rome Summit, Italy	24
2022 Bali Summit, Indonesia	26
2023 New Delhi Summit, India	27
2024 Rio de Janeiro Summit, Brazil	28
From ambitions to action: SMART goals	29

PART 2	32
---------------	-----------

Implementation status of G20 commitments to Africa	32
The concentration of outcomes for Africa in various themes	32
The Africa we want is the Africa the world needs	35
South Africa's presidency is future-focused and people-centred	38
Conclusion	40

INTRODUCTION

As South Africa completes the first cycle of G20 presidencies, a valuable opportunity presents itself to identify how themes related to Africa have emerged through the various G20 presidencies. The original purpose of the G20 was to address global economic challenges and ensure global financial stability through increased international cooperation among systemically important countries. However, over time, the group's purpose has broadened and there has also been growing recognition that a focus on developing economies, and especially Africa, is crucial for global economic stability and growth.

While the G20 has launched initiatives specifically for Africa over the years, many of its global economic governance efforts also impact the continent.

The G20 was elevated to the heads of state level in 2008 in the wake of the global financial crisis. In 2010, the G20 sought to tackle the issue of development more directly. The Seoul and Toronto summits (both in 2010) recognised the need to narrow development gaps and reduce poverty to ensure balanced and sustainable growth and influence policy action on Africa and the Least Developed Countries (LDCs).³ The Development Working Group (DWG) was established during the Toronto Summit for the purpose of reducing the development gap between advanced economies, and Africa and LDCs. The Toronto Summit made progress with the food security agenda, launching the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP) which raised \$244 million for Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh and Togo in 2010.

Subsequent summits saw the launch of key initiatives such as the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and LDCs (2016) and the G20 Africa Partnership (2017), demonstrating a growing commitment to targeted interventions in Africa. Furthermore, the G20 adopted a broad view on development in Africa. During the COVID-19 pandemic, the Riyadh (2020) and Rome (2021) summits recognised the debt and healthcare access challenges facing low-income countries (LICs). Food security and climate change posed development challenges, and initiatives such as the Matera Declaration (2021), the G20 Scaling-up Renewables in Africa plan (2024) and the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap (2024) were launched to improve access to both the physical and financial resources needed to address these challenges. However, it was only during India's presidency in 2023 that the African Union (AU) was welcomed as a permanent member of the G20.

This handbook tracks the evolution of G20 initiatives from 2008 to 2024, with a particular emphasis on their impact on Africa and LDCs. Generally, the G20 captures progress (including at project level) through published reports, frameworks, roadmaps or toolkits. This is valuable from a governance perspective, as it encourages consistency and draws attention to important issues. Further, impact is evident through multiplier effects on economic growth and stability.

A summary of Africa-related outcomes from G20 summits

Over the past 19 G20 presidencies, the focus on Africa has been supported by seven broad themes led by discussions on global economic and financial architecture reform, infrastructure and human development, and more recently, climate change (Figure 1).¹ The discussions on global economic and financial architecture reform (multilateral development banks, debt management, the representation of emerging markets in financial institutions and international tax regulations) have focused heavily on Africa. For example, direct attention has been given to infrastructure development on the continent, including the Compact with Africa (CwA), digital infrastructure, renewable energy and sustainable development. The outcomes related to the environment and climate change are relatively new, and in an African context they largely pertain to access to renewable energy and climate adaptation and mitigation.

2008 Washington DC Summit, US

The G20 Washington Leaders' Declaration focused on a collective response to the global financial crisis that had begun a few months earlier, making no direct reference to Africa. However, the aim of restoring economic stability and growth in the global economic system was undoubtably very important to Africa and other developing countries. The Washington Leaders' Declaration suggested that developed economies, the International Monetary Fund (IMF) and other international organisations supply capacity-building programmes to developing and emerging market economies. A successful outcome of this summit was the restoration, by international financial institutions (IFIs), of emerging markets' access to credit, together with assurances from the IMF, World Bank (WB) and multilateral development banks (MDBs) that these IFIs were adequately financed to put this into effect. The declaration also included a statement that emerging markets should have stronger representation in IFIs.

2009 London Summit, UK

In an effort to ensure a fair and sustainable recovery for all, the G20 London Leaders' Declaration reaffirmed the G20's commitment to meeting the Millennium Development Goals (MDGs) through overseas development assistance (ODA) pledges, including Aid for Trade, debt relief and the Gleneagles commitments² made in 2005 at the G8 Summit

¹ For more information on the topics within each theme, or for any raw data, contact the authors.

² Summit Document on Africa: G8 Gleneagles Summit, 2005, [2005 G8 Gleneagles: Africa](#).

in Gleneagles, Scotland. The declaration emphasised these commitments ‘especially to sub-Saharan Africa’. The G8 members pledged to contribute 0.7% in ODA by 2015. No new commitments to Africa specifically were contained in this declaration.³

The G20 committed to supporting LICs through a number of actions to be undertaken by IFIs, including: to treble the resources available to the IMF to \$750 billion; to support a new special drawing rights (SDR) allocation of \$250 billion; to support at least \$100 billion in additional lending by MDBs, ensuring \$250 billion in support for trade finance; to use the additional resources emanating from agreed IMF gold sales to provide concessional finance to the poorest countries; and, finally, to constitute a \$1 trillion programme to boost jobs in the world economy.⁴

2009 Pittsburgh Summit, US

The G20 Pittsburgh Leaders’ Declaration reaffirmed members’ commitment to meeting the MDGs and their respective ODA pledges, especially to sub-Saharan Africa, in 2010 and beyond. The issue of increased representation of emerging markets in international institutions gained momentum at the summit. Commitments were made in the IMF’s 14th General Quota Review to increase the IMF quota voting share for emerging market economies and developing countries to at least 5% and the voting power for the poorest countries to at least 3%, according to the World Bank formula. In addition, the Financial Stability Board (FSB) was established to include emerging market economies. By agreeing to launch the G20 Financial Inclusion Experts Group, attempts were made to improve financial access for the poor.

The leaders at the summit also took new steps to increase access to food, fuel and finance among the world’s poorest by calling on the World Bank to develop a new trust fund to support the G20 Food Security Initiative in LICs (eventually adopted as the Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture during France’s G20 presidency in 2011). They also committed to phasing out inefficient fossil fuel subsidies, while providing targeted support to the poorest and increasing funding for renewable energy projects for the poor, such as the Scaling-up Renewable Energy Program in Low-Income Countries (SREP), which falls under the Strategic Climate Fund (SCF).

The SREP set three targets: firstly, to generate over 3 million MWh per year of renewable energy; secondly, to improve access to energy for over 140 000 businesses and 17.3 million people; and thirdly, to reduce greenhouse gases (GHG) by 2.5 million tonnes per year.⁵

3 G20 Leaders, Global Plan for Recovery and Reform (G20 Leaders, April 2, 2009).

4 G20 Leaders, G20 Leaders’ Statement, London Summit (G20 Leaders, April 2, 2009).

5 Climate Funds Update, Scaling-Up Renewable Energy Program in Low-income Countries, Scaling up Renewable Energy Program in LICs.

2010 Toronto Summit, Canada

The Toronto Leaders' Declaration acknowledged the need to narrow the development gap and reduce poverty to promote sustainable growth and economic resilience after the 2008 global financial crisis. The Toronto summit highlighted the effects of policy actions on Africa and LDCs. It was under Canada's G20 presidency that the DWG was established to reduce the development gap between advanced economies, and Africa and LDCs.

The Toronto summit advanced the food security agenda, launching the Global Agriculture and Food Security Program (GAFSP), which, as a fund, approved inaugural grants of \$244 million for Rwanda, Sierra Leone, Bangladesh and Togo, and emphasised the urgency of closing agricultural gaps in Africa using innovative technology.

The Toronto Leaders' Declaration commended the MDBs for responding to the G20 call to accelerate and expand lending to mitigate the impact of the global financial crisis on the world's poorest. It also reaffirmed the commitment made at the 15th Conference of Parties (COP15) in Copenhagen to deliver on the 2020 target of mobilising \$100 billion per year for climate action in developing countries. The G20 also developed principles for innovative financial assistance for the poor in the G20 Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion, to support MDBs. The Pittsburgh MDB commitments were honoured, the capital reserves for MDBs were increased by 85% or \$350 billion (and by 200% or \$1.8 billion for the African Development Bank [AfDB] specifically), and the African Development Fund and International Development Association were replenished. Both the increase in capital reserves and the fund replenishments were designed to facilitate concessional lending to poor countries.

The G20 leaders committed to improving the FSB reform agenda, specifically ensuring the transparency of credit ratings agencies and reaching agreement on capital and liquidity requirements (Basel Committee on Banking Supervision) as the first pillar of the agenda, and improving IMF and WB reporting on risks facing emerging markets as the second pillar of the agenda.

2010 Seoul Summit, South Korea

The Seoul Leaders' Declaration did not mention Africa directly, yet the summit produced the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth which set out the G20's commitment to working in partnership with other developing countries, and LICs in particular, to help them build the capacity to achieve and maximise their growth potential, thereby contributing to global rebalancing. The consensus was accompanied by the Seoul Multi-Year Action Plan on Development (MYAP) which highlighted nine pillars: infrastructure, human resource development, trade, private investment and job creation, food security, growth with resilience, financial inclusion, domestic resource mobilisation and knowledge sharing.

Leaders at the summit agreed that invitees from two non-G20 member countries from Africa could attend summits. Following South Korea's presidency in 2010, there was a consistent push for the AU to be made a full member of the G20 to ensure that Africa had a greater voice. This was finally accomplished when India's G20 presidency invited the AU to join in September 2023.

Following the establishment of the Anti-Corruption Working Group during the Toronto Summit, the G20 published the G20 Anti-Corruption Action Plan, which aimed to tackle corruption and identify non-compliant jurisdictions. In addition to IFIs mobilising resources to support the lives of the poor (for example, the IMF had mobilised \$750 billion under the London Leaders' Declaration), South Korea's presidency recognised the potential for faster growth in Africa through regional integration and called on the MDBs and the World Trade Organization (WTO) to collaborate. The G20 Financial Inclusion Experts Group, mentioned in the Pittsburgh Leaders' Declaration, was launched as the Global Partnership for Financial Inclusion (GPFI). The GPFI developed the G20 Financial Inclusion Action Plan, which laid out the G20 Principles for Innovative Financial Inclusion and the Flexible SME Finance Framework, to expand finance opportunities for the poor. The GPFI was asked to report on progress in 2011.

2011 Cannes Summit, France

Echoing earlier summits' calls to address the challenges of development, the Cannes Leaders' Declaration committed to driving more inclusive and resilient growth. It drew attention to agriculture and food security, noting that the humanitarian crisis in the Horn of Africa underscored the need for stronger emergency responses to food insecurity. The G20 Action Plan on Food Price Volatility and Agriculture was adopted during the Cannes Summit. The declaration also committed to fostering investment in agriculture and mitigating the impact of price volatility, particularly in LICs in Western Africa, while welcoming the launch of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) regional emergency humanitarian food reserve system for small farmers as a pilot project. This project was held up as a 'food security success story' in the 2013 DWG accountability report. The project was incorporated into the Global Initiative for Resilience in Sahel and Western Africa (AGIR), which was launched in December 2012. Further steps towards its implementation were taken in 2013, with financial support from the EU and other partners.

Two outcomes of the G20 Agricultural Ministers meeting in Cannes were the policy mandate for the Group on Earth Observations Global Agricultural Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM) and the Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS). GEOGLAM focused on increasing market transparency to improve food security by producing and disseminating responsive information on agricultural conditions as well as regional and global production forecasts. It initially evolved out of the GEO Agriculture Community of Practice (AgCoP) – a largely self-organised community with informal governance arrangements. After the G20 policy mandate was adopted and operational monitoring

activities commenced, the community formalised its governance structure to include global–regional crop conditioning monitoring (food exporters), national monitoring systems, and crop monitoring for early warning (food insecure nations). Similarly, AMIS was an inter-agency platform that aimed to enhance food market transparency and policy responses in the interests of improved food security. Nigeria and Egypt were invited to become members of AMIS. In addition, G20 members endorsed the International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement (IRIWI).

The Cannes Summit also focused on addressing the infrastructure financing gap, especially in sub-Saharan Africa, and identifying bottlenecks (including those in MDBs) impeding infrastructure investment. The declaration further supported the recommendations of the High-Level Panel for Infrastructure Development, which highlighted 11 ‘exemplary’ infrastructure projects, calling on the MDBs to implement these projects. These included five projects in sub-Saharan Africa: the West African Power Pool (WAPP), Ethiopia–Kenya Power Systems Interconnection, Inga Hydropower, North–South Corridor (NSC), and Isaka–Kigali Railway. It was recommended that the Sokoni Africa Infrastructure Marketplace be piloted in conjunction with the exemplary projects. By 2013, this marketplace was off track and projects had stalled due to a lack of financial commitments needed for operationalisation.⁶

Evidence of progress with the WAPP project included the Islamic Development Bank’s (IsDB) approval of the Gambia River Basin Development Organization’s (OMVG) regional interconnection project, in 2015. This project aimed to supply low-cost clean and renewable energy, boost the regional electricity market, and reduce fossil fuel-based electricity generation and CO2 emissions. The environmental and social due diligence was under way, and implementation was expected to start at the end of 2021. Furthermore, under the WAPP, the CLSG (Côte d’Ivoire, Liberia, Sierra Leone and Guinea) interconnector project aimed to improve the isolated electricity systems of these West African countries, increase the reliability of the electricity system and allow the development of regional electricity trade. As of 2021, the implementation rate was estimated to be around 93%. The European Investment Bank (EIB) financing this project was fully disbursed and its related section in Sierra Leone fully implemented.

Regarding the Inga Hydropower project, in 2021, the Inga 3 Basse Chute (BC) project consisted of 4.8 GW of hydro power. As of January 2025, the project had experienced many delays.⁷ The government of the Democratic Republic of the Congo (DRC) has insisted that the plans for the project are still in motion.⁸

The NSC was launched in 2015, for a total amount of \$251.14 million, of which \$189.4 million in financing came from the AfDB. According to the [2022 G20 Bali Update](#), progress had

6 Development Working Group, [Comprehensive Accountability Report](#) (Development Working Group, 2013).

7 Development Working Group, [The Rome Update](#) (Development Working Group, 2021).

8 Wedaeli Chibelushi and Emery Makumeno, [Grand Inga: Are DR Congo's plans to build the world's largest hydropower dam still on track?](#), *BBC*, January 27, 2025.

been made with the Isaka–Kigali–Musongati Railway. Rwanda, Burundi and Tanzania had collectively decided to construct a new railway line from Isaka to Kigali and from Keza to Musongati via Gitega in Burundi, and to upgrade the existing railway line from Dar es Salaam to Isaka. The railway line connects Dar es Salaam with Isaka (970 km), and the new railway line would connect Isaka with Kigali (494 km) and Keza with Musongati (197 km). Financing from the AfDB came to \$11.0 million.

In 2011, the G20 leaders agreed to work to reduce the global average cost of transferring remittances from 10% to 5% by 2014. In 2014, the average cost was 7.98%, and when the Brisbane Summit launched the [G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance Flows](#), leaders recommitted to the 5% target; however, no new deadline was mentioned in the plan.

2012 Los Cabos Summit, Mexico

The [Los Cabos Leaders' Declaration](#) emphasised the problem of food insecurity in Africa. Leaders at the summit supported the Scaling-up Nutrition movement and encouraged greater involvement of G20 members, specifically highlighting the crisis in the Sahel and Horn of Africa and stressing the importance of strengthening emergency and long-term responses to food insecurity. The G20 members welcomed the launch of the [AGResults initiative](#) aimed at improving food security for the poor and vulnerable by encouraging private sector innovation. They indicated they were specifically looking forward to the pilot projects that focused on innovations in sub-Saharan Africa. By 2013, \$100 million had been pledged towards the initiative by Australia, Canada, the UK, the US and the Gates Foundation.

Mexico's presidency welcomed the progress made on development cooperation and financial inclusion. The G20 leaders welcomed the SME Finance Compact, which supported developing innovative financing models, implemented agreements under the Seoul MYAP, and identified new ways to enhance efforts to support LICs in areas such as infrastructure development, food security and inclusive green growth.

The GPFI announced the SME Finance Compact in 2012 to promote innovative SME finance models to spur economic growth. Related to this, the FSB published a study identifying potential unintended consequences of the agreed financial regulatory reforms for emerging markets and developing economies (EMDEs). The presidency reiterated the need to prevent base erosion and profit shifting (BEPS) and supported ongoing elaboration of recovery and resolution plans and institution-specific cross-border co-operation agreements for all Global Systemically Important Financial Institutions (G-SIFIs). In 2012, a report addressing the Misperception and Risk and Return in Low Income Countries was published, which established the foundation for another report on this topic, published by the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development (OECD) and the World Bank in 2015.

Mexico's presidency recognised the role of global and regional value chains for growth and job creation in developing countries. To this end, it called on the WTO, UN Conference on Trade and Development (UNCTAD) and OECD to accelerate investigations in this area and report back on progress during Russia's G20 presidency in 2013. It also acknowledged the challenges that rapid urbanisation posed and welcomed the G20 report on best practices in Urban Mass Transport Infrastructure in Medium and Large Cities in Developing Countries.

2013 St Petersburg Summit, Russia

The first [Comprehensive Accountability Report](#), setting out the progress made under the Seoul MYAP, was developed under Russia's G20 presidency.

The St Petersburg Leaders' [Declaration](#) created a High-Level Panel for Infrastructure Investment to mobilise the scaling up of infrastructure financing. It also welcomed the progress made by the G20 in completing, firstly, the assessment of Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs) for Infrastructure in Africa (initiated in October 2011), which recognised the infrastructure financing gap and, secondly, a toolkit for Urban Mass Transportation Infrastructure Projects in Medium and Large Cities in Developing Countries (requested by the leaders at the Los Cabos Summit), which considered Africa's urban growth rates up to 2050. The leaders endorsed the development by the GPFI⁹ and welcomed the [IMF and WB review and update](#) of the Guidelines for Public Debt Management, which highlighted the importance of cash management practices in developing countries, and the Debt Management Performance Assessment (DeMPA) tool, which allowed developing countries in particular to identify priority areas for improvement. Russia's G20 presidency also launched the G20/OECD BEPS Action Plan, a 15-point plan addressing tax avoidance by multinational companies.

The St Petersburg Leaders' Declaration asked the DWG to expand its engagements with non-G20 member countries (especially LICs), international organisations, the private sector and civil society to deliver outcomes (at the forthcoming Brisbane Summit in 2014) related to food security (job creation and nutrition); financial inclusion and remittances; infrastructure (project preparation and long-term financing); human resource development; and domestic resource mobilisation (transparency and BEPS). The declaration also asked the GPFI to initiate efforts to reduce the global average cost of transferring remittances to 5%, enhance financial literacy and increase financial inclusion.

Building on the attention given to food insecurity by Mexico's G20 presidency in 2012, the International Fund for Agricultural Development (IFAD) established the [Platform for Agricultural Risk Management](#) (PARM) under Russia's G20 presidency in 2013 to promote sustainable agricultural growth, boost rural investment, reduce food insecurity

and improve agricultural resilience. In addition, to encourage green growth alongside sustainable development and poverty reduction in developing countries, this presidency initiated the G20 Dialogue Platform on Inclusive Green Investments.

2014 Brisbane Summit, Australia

Although the [Brisbane Leaders' Declaration](#) did not mention Africa directly, it expressed the leaders' support for the [Global Infrastructure Initiative](#), the [G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework](#) and the [G20 Principles on Energy Collaboration](#), which were launched during Australia's G20 presidency. This presidency also launched the [G20 reporting standards implementation plan](#) in an effort to ensure that developing countries could participate in, and benefit from, Automatic Exchange of Information (AEOI) between international tax authorities aimed at reducing global tax evasion and increasing tax transparency.

The declaration aimed to narrow the gap between men and women in labour force participation rates in G20 countries by 25% by 2025, taking into account national circumstances. This would bring more than 100 million women into the labour force. In addition, the declaration committed to working on poverty eradication and development to ensure growth in LICs, while expressing deep concerns about the Ebola outbreak in Guinea, Liberia and Sierra Leone. With a clear commitment to tackling youth unemployment, this presidency asked the labour and employment ministers, supported by an Employment Working Group, to report back on this issue in 2015.

The Brisbane Summit planted a seed to initiate a dialogue on factors affecting risk perceptions in LICs with a view to better informing risk management and mitigation approaches. The OECD and World Bank published a report on this in 2015. Expressing its resolve to reduce the high incidence of corruption and building a global culture of intolerance towards corruption, the G20 on Anti-Corruption Working Group endorsed the 2015–2016 Anti-Corruption Plan. In September 2014, G20 leaders published the G20 Plan to Facilitate Remittance [Flows](#).

2015 Antalya Summit, Turkey

The [Antalya Leaders' Declaration](#) shifted the focus to Africa in the energy space. One of the presidency's priorities was to enhance energy access in sub-Saharan Africa. The leaders focused on the implementation of the G20 Principles on Energy Collaboration adopted during the Brisbane Summit in 2014 and welcomed the energy ministers' first meeting ever. Recognising that globally over 1.1 billion people lacked access to electricity and 2.9 billion relied on traditional biomass for cooking, the leaders endorsed the [G20 Energy Access Action Plan: Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Access](#) – the first phase of which focused on enhancing electricity access in sub-Saharan Africa where the problem was most acute.

The year 2015 saw an increased focus on climate commitments globally in the wake of the signing of the Paris Agreement. Turkey's presidency commissioned the OECD to produce a toolkit to enhance access to adaptation finance for developing countries that were vulnerable to the adverse effects of climate change, including low-income developing countries (LIDCs), small island developing states (SIDS) and African states.

Building on the Brisbane Summit's food security and nutrition framework, the leaders endorsed the G20 Action Plan on Food Security and Sustainable Food Systems. Leaders committed to the Antalya Youth Goal, which was to reduce the share of young people in their countries most at risk of being permanently left behind in the labour market, by 15% by 2025. They further supported human resource development, and particularly economic empowerment of rural women and rural youth, through the first of many G20–LIDC knowledge-sharing forums on enhancing vocational training and promoting food security and nutrition safety nets.

Heeding the call from the 2014 Brisbane Summit, the World Bank and OECD published a report on the Risk and Return Characteristics of Infrastructure Investment in Low Income Countries. This drew attention to pension fund and insurance investors in several developing countries, highlighting a well-established market in South Africa, where such funds also saw the highest allocation to infrastructure projects. The G20 National Remittance Plans were finalised under Turkey's G20 presidency. These included plans to reduce the global average cost of transferring remittances to 5%, to support country-led actions to address the cost, to improve the availability of remittance services, particularly for poor people, and to use remittance flows to drive financial inclusion and development.

Prioritising inclusiveness, this presidency published the G20 and Low-Income Developing Countries Framework, which highlighted sustainable development challenges, such as limited access to development finance, a lack of infrastructure and limited access to nutrition; food insecurity, and challenges in human resource development; and challenges in participating in free trade and global value chains, which impacted economic growth efforts. Africa was only specifically mentioned in relation to energy access.

2016 Hangzhou Summit, China

China's G20 presidency launched the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and LDCs. The focus of the initiative was on promoting inclusive and sustainable structural transformation through knowledge sharing and peer learning in Africa and LDCs. The Hangzhou Leaders' Declaration stated that the initiative would 'facilitate the leveraging of multi-stakeholder resources for investment in trade, connectivity, transport and industrial corridors, and support local development of special economic zones, industrial parks and science and technology parks to attract investment and talent'. The initiative has seen various presidencies recommitting to its goals. Broadening the focus of industrialisation, the G20 New Industrial Revolution Action Plan and the G20 Blueprint on Innovative Growth contained commitments to promote capacity building, industrialisation and innovation in the digital economy in developing countries.

Also published during China's presidency was the Hangzhou Comprehensive Accountability [Report](#) on G20 Development Commitments. This highlighted progress being made on commitments to African countries in the areas of Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs), the development of an emergency humanitarian food reserve system, and BEPs in LICs. In 2016, Agenda 2030 was integrated into the DWG along with its high-level principles and the Action Plan on the 2023 Agenda for Sustainable Development.

Subsequent to this presidency, G20 priorities shifted towards a stronger focus on Africa and LDCs, in line with the promotion of economic resilience in the Global South and internationally. It should be noted that China's G20 presidency invited other G20 states to join China's existing partnerships with Africa, such as the Belt and Road Initiative (BRI).¹⁰

A goal of China's presidency was to immediately adopt measures to eliminate child labour, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery by 2025. The presidency welcomed the entry into effect of the IMF's 2010 quota and governance reform, with the IMF working towards the completion of its 15th General Review of Quotas and a new quota formula. In 2016, the emerging markets of China, Brazil, Russia and India were among the 10 largest economies in the IMF. Some 6.2% of quotas and the 'voting power of the IMF's poorest... [were to] be protected'.¹¹ The Leaders' Declaration stated their interest in working with sub-Saharan African countries to improve universal access to affordable, sustainable energy, while emphasising the G20 Voluntary Collaboration Plan adopted in 2015.

The presidency welcomed the FSB's [Second Annual Report](#) with North Africa and sub-Saharan Africa having been consulted as regional consultative groups. The Leaders' Declaration also welcomed the [Joint Declaration of Aspirations on Actions to Support Infrastructure Investment](#) by 11 MDBs (including the Africa50 Infrastructure Acceleration Fund). This was in response to, and recognition of, the infrastructure financing gaps in developing countries which had been raised as a problem at the 2011 Cannes and 2013 St Petersburg summits.

Moreover, the presidency recognised that excess capacity in steel industries was a global issue and required collective responses. While the declaration did not mention developing countries or Africa directly, it called for increased information sharing from the Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity (South Africa is a member) and asked the Forum to provide a progress report in 2017.

2017 Hamburg Summit, Germany

Germany's G20 presidency continued to put the spotlight on Africa. The Hamburg Summit adopted the [G20 Africa Partnership](#). Initiatives included in the Partnership were

10 Cobus Van Staden and Elizabeth Sidiropoulos, 2019. 'G20 – Africa Engagement: Finding a Roadmap to Shared Development', [Occasional Paper](#), SAIIA.

11 International Monetary Fund, [Press Release: Historic Quota and Governance Reforms Become Effective](#) (IMF, January 27, 2016).

the G20 [Initiative for Rural Youth Employment](#), the [#eSkills4Girls](#) initiative, the [Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative \(We-Fi\)](#), and the [CwA](#). The [Think20 Africa Standing Group](#) as part of the Think20 engagement platform was established under Germany's G20 presidency.

The G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment has seen some success. From 2017 to 2023, G20 states invested over \$20 billion in 715 projects to boost youth employment in Africa. These goals were exceeded by 128% (6.38 million youth trained) and 261% (2.86 million jobs created)¹² and, according to [the OECD](#), more can be achieved. The Rural Youth Employment goal was rated as the most successful SMART G20 Initiative by the authors of this document. This initiative more than surpassed its goal of creating 1.1 million jobs by 2022.

The Rural Youth Employment initiative had links to food security and nutrition issues, thus contributing in part to the advancement of the agriculture, food security and nutrition objectives. The We-Fi initiative also saw some success, allocating \$1.2 billion in loans and grants to women-led/-owned businesses from 2017 to 2023 in 59 developing countries, with active projects in Mozambique, Zambia and Nigeria, among others.¹³ As for the [#eSkills4Girls](#) initiative, the goals were to promote opportunities and participation for women and girls in the digital economy as well as to provide access to training in STEM (science, technology, engineering and mathematics) fields. [#eSkills4Girls](#) has also supported smaller initiatives, such as Africa Code Week. The most recent report on Africa Code Week was from 2019. The website's tracker states that in 2022, Africa Code Week had introduced 3.85 million youth to coding skills and mobilised 39 000 teachers in 37 countries since its inception. In 2023, 46% of participants were female.¹⁴

The CwA's goal is to promote private investment, including in infrastructure. The initiative does this by promoting improvements to countries' macro, business and financing frameworks. The CwA brings together like-minded African states, international organisations and other G20 partners to coordinate specific reform agendas, encourage the adoption of policy measures and create better visibility for Compact states to attract private investment. Compact states join voluntarily. The CwA was reinvigorated in 2022 with updated implementation reforms, such as formalising the membership process by admitting only reform-minded states. The [2023 monitoring report](#) indicated that Compact states outperformed non-Compact states in the categories of foreign direct investment (FDI), exports, domestic investments and GDP growth, signalling a strong recovery from the COVID-19 pandemic.

The Africa Advisory Group (AAG), which is part of the G20 finance track, aims to bolster the effectiveness of the CwA initiative. Launched in 2017, the AAG is co-chaired by Germany and South Africa, with participation from some G20 member states, such as Canada,

12 OECD, [The G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment](#) (OECD, October 2023).

13 Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative, 'Our Work- Results', [We-Fi Results | Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative](#)

14 SAP Africa, About, [AfricaCodeWeek](#).

Germany, Japan, the UK and the US (which had not addressed its participation in the AAG as of mid-July 2025, as it had done with USAID), and CwA countries, such as Benin, Egypt, Ethiopia, Ghana and Senegal. The IMF, the World Bank and the AfDB also sit on the AAG. The AAG's responsibilities include monitoring the progress of Compact countries and making policy recommendations based on the Compact monitoring report.

The [Hamburg Leaders' Declaration](#) also committed to aligning G20 joint measures with regional strategies and priorities of the AU Agenda 2063 and its [Programme for Infrastructure Development in Africa](#) (PIDA), noting that the AU and the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) are important partners for monitoring.

An annex to the declaration committed to ensuring that all G20 citizens were digitally connected by 2025 and especially welcomed infrastructure development in LICs to that end. Under the [G20 Africa Partnership](#), G20 members supported the objectives of the Africa Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI) and the NEPAD Renewable Energy Access Programme (REAP) – initiatives that aimed to accelerate access to renewable energy and reduce energy poverty in Africa. According to the 2022 progress report, the scaling-up of solar energy in the Middle East and North Africa (MENA) for export to European markets has significant potential but also challenges. The G20 countries in this region can become hubs for renewable energy. In 2022, the World Bank Group had several projects in motion, including one in Morocco (Noor Solar Power Project). The IsDB participated in financing public–private partnership (PPP) solar projects in Egypt and was working with Morocco to drive more active involvement in solar energy. The IsDB was also involved in various initiatives to attract private sector interest in solar energy in the MENA region.

The German Federal Ministry of Economic Affairs and Energy published the [Global Forum on Steel Excess Capacity Report](#), as requested in 2016 by the Chinese G20 presidency. The report highlighted how excess steel production lowers the price of steel globally, thereby creating significant difficulties for steel producers in advanced, emerging and developing economies alike. After disclosing that state-owned enterprises operate in this industry in China, India, Indonesia and South Africa, the report mentioned that China, Indonesia and South Africa had explicit guidelines or targets for the disbursement of dividends by state-owned steel companies, while in India such guidelines did not apply specifically to state-owned steel companies.

The [Hamburg Action Plan](#) confirmed the G20's continued assistance to developing countries in building their tax capacity, including the Addis Tax Initiative, and welcomed the planned establishment of the OECD Africa Academy for Tax and Financial Crime Investigation, which was launched in 2017. Specific mention was made of the African Renewable Energy Initiative (AREI), which aimed to accelerate the expansion of renewable energy in Africa and was consistent with the G20 commitment to improving access to modern and sustainable energy services for all people.

Germany's presidency also recognised the work of the GPFI and promoted better access to financing, while also welcoming the [G20 Financial Inclusion Plan](#).

2018 Buenos Aires Summit, Argentina

The Buenos Aires Leaders' Declaration underlined the G20's continued support for the G20 Africa Partnership, including investment in early childhood development and the CwA. The presidency also published the G20 Initiative for Early Childhood Development, creating awareness of children's issues in developing countries. The Buenos Aires G20 Action Plan outlined concrete actions aimed at achieving the AU 2030 Agenda and recognised the importance of South–South and triangular cooperation in implementing it. The declaration further endorsed the G20 High Level Principles on Sustainable Habitat through Regional Planning, addressing Africa's growing population, especially in urban areas.

The leaders also launched the G20 Policy Guide: Digitisation and Informality – Harnessing Digital Financial Inclusion for Individuals and MSMEs In the Informal Economy.

2019 Osaka Summit, Japan

The Osaka Leaders' Declaration reiterated the G20's continued support for the G20 Africa Partnership, including the CwA. It committed to the strengthening of bilateral engagements by G20 members and enhanced roles for the WBG, the AfDB and the IMF in implementing the CwA. It also reiterated its continued support for G20 efforts to drive industrialisation in Africa and other relevant initiatives that contribute to the AU Agenda 2063.

Japan's presidency published the Review of Progress of the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and LDCs, which assessed China's G20 initiative of the same name. The report stated that by 2019, the initiative was considered to be 'somewhat effective' by the G20 members. The report featured interviews with 19 African states, of which only four were aware of the initiative. The previous two G20 presidencies had not addressed the initiative directly, but had confirmed their support for sustainable development in Africa.

The leaders also expressed their ongoing commitment to addressing illicit financial flows and working towards achieving the 15th Replenishment of the African Development Fund. They further reaffirmed their support for the necessary reform of the WTO and mentioned their support for developing countries progressing towards the achievement of their Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs). In addition, the leaders endorsed the Guiding Principles for the Development of Science, Technology, and Innovation for SDGs Roadmaps.

During Japan's presidency, several events were held under the CwA framework, including the Africa Investment Forum hosted in South Africa, the CwA High-Level Conference in Germany and the G20 Compact Blended Finance Peer Learning Seminar in Côte d'Ivoire.

G20 member countries continued to be engaged in multi-sectoral early childhood development (ECD) initiatives. At the end of 2019, the UN Children's Fund (UNICEF), the Global Partnership for Education (GPE), the AU and the African Early Childhood Network (AfECN) co-hosted a side event at the Seventh Tokyo International Conference on African Development (TICAD 7) on Early Childhood Education: A Foundation for Human Capital Development and Improving the Wealth of Nations.

Leaders welcomed the commencement of the Empowerment and Progression of Women's Economic Representation (EMPOWER) alliance, aimed at promoting women's economic empowerment and leadership in the private sector. Additionally, the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development was published. This initiative focused on investing in quality education to create inclusive, resilient and innovative societies, and worked in conjunction with the G20 Africa Partnership.

In addition, the presidency supported projects in food security and agriculture, with the GAFSP portfolio having grown to \$1.6 billion by the end of 2019. The GAFSP was active in 47 countries, with approximately 63% of funds allocated to projects in Africa and the remaining distributed across Asia, Latin America, the Caribbean and the Middle East. The presidency supported Phase 1 (2014–2019) of the Platform for Agricultural Risk Management (PARM) to promote and increase responsible investment in food systems. As a result, agricultural risk management was incorporated into the National Agricultural Policy and Investment Plan and the Extension Services Strategy of eight sub-Saharan African countries (Cabo Verde, Cameroon, Ethiopia, Liberia, Niger, Senegal, Uganda and Zambia).¹⁵ Furthermore, EOI requests by five African countries had led to nearly \$12 million in additional tax revenue in 2019. Regarding progress made, 32 African countries had increased their participation in the work of African countries' EOI network to 3 000 EOI relationships since the launch of the initiative in 2014. In addition, the leaders endorsed the Key Elements of Quality Infrastructure for Connectivity Enhancement towards Sustainable Development and drew attention to the fact that developing countries faced significant challenges in their quest to close the infrastructure gap.

2020 Riyadh Summit, Saudi Arabia

Saudi Arabia's presidency began a few weeks before the COVID-19 pandemic forced most parts of the world into a lockdown. According to estimates by the International Labour Organization (ILO), G20 efforts to temporarily extend social protection measures supported the livelihoods of nearly 645 million people.

The Riyadh Leaders' Declaration included, for the first time, a separate section on health and recognised the specific COVID-19 financing-related challenges in Africa and SIDS. It committed to implementing the Debt Service Suspension Initiative (DSSI), which allowed

¹⁵ DWG, The Riyadh Update (DWG, 2020).

eligible countries to suspend official bilateral debt service payments. Of the 73 countries that were eligible, 48 participated. As of February 2022, the DSSI had delivered an estimated \$12.9 billion in debt-service suspension. Subsequently, the Common Framework for Debt Treatment Beyond the DSSI initiative was adopted, recognising the need for certain vulnerable countries to continue receiving debt treatment on a case-by-case basis. Four African countries applied for debt restructuring under the Common Framework: Chad, Zambia and Ethiopia in 2021, and Ghana in 2023. The Common Framework has been criticised, however, for doing 'too little, too late' and being 'too complex'.¹⁶

Saudi Arabia's G20 presidency also made cross-border payments a priority by launching the G20 Roadmap to Enhancing Cross-border Payments. This roadmap aimed to enhance cross-border payments and endorse global targets addressing cost, speed, transparency and access, by 2027.

Similar to previous G20 presidencies, Saudi Arabia affirmed its continued support for the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and LDCs, the G20 Africa Partnership and the CwA, 'and other relevant initiatives'. Saudi Arabia also wanted to explore more sustainable financing options to stimulate growth in Africa. It raised awareness about the lack of access to clean cooking facilities in Africa and highlighted the importance of coordinating efforts through a series of regional Voluntary Collaboration Action Plans for sub-Saharan Africa.

The Riyadh Leaders' Declaration further endorsed the G20 guidelines on quality infrastructure for regional connectivity. Reflecting these guidelines, the OECD Development Centre, AUDA-NEPAD and the African Center for Economic Transformation (ACET) launched the Accelerating and Scaling-up Quality Infrastructure in Africa (ASQIIA) initiative in 2023. A joint peer learning event under the ASQIIA took place in Ghana in 2023 and included representatives from the 12 CwA countries.

Another priority of the Saudi presidency was the launch of the G20 Global Land Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation, with the ambition to reduce degraded land by 50% by 2040.

Linked to the Antalya Youth Goal, the G20 labour and employment ministers adopted the G20 Youth Roadmap 2025, which focused on improving young people's access to quality jobs and ability to successfully transition from school to work under the Saudi presidency. The Leaders' Declaration welcomed the commencement of the EMPOWER alliance promoting women's advancement in leadership positions in the private sector.

Leaders reiterated their support for tax capacity building in developing countries. Some progress had been made, with 32 African countries having increased their participation in the work of the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax

¹⁶ Yunnan Chen and Tom Hart, 'Common framework, uncommon challenges: lessons from the post-COVID debt restructuring architecture', (Insight: ODI Think Change, 2025).

Purposes. This initiative increased African countries' network of EOI to 3 000 new EOI relationships, with seven African countries collecting an additional \$382 million in tax revenue (\$370 million of which was allocated to two of these countries). As of July 2023, 38 African countries had been tackling tax evasion and illicit financial flows, which has realised an additional €1.69 billion in tax revenues.¹⁷

The OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS reports, on the blueprints of Pillar 1 and Pillar 2, was published in 2020. These blueprints were crucial for developing the two-pillar solution aimed at addressing the tax challenges arising from the digitalisation of the economy. This presidency recommitted to reducing the global average cost of transferring remittances to 5%.

Also published during this presidency was the G20/OECD Report on the Collaboration with Institutional Investors and Asset Managers on Infrastructure. This report highlighted that many of the risks associated with developing countries may be perceived rather than real. Investors noted that there was greater currency risk in developing countries and more needed to be done to mobilise investment in the developing world.

2021 Rome Summit, Italy

The G20 Rome Leaders' Declaration welcomed the progress made and continued support given to African countries through the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and LDCs, the G20 Africa Partnership, the CwA, the DSSI and other relevant initiatives. Leaders noted that they remained committed to addressing illicit financial flows.

Italy's presidency supported research, development and production of COVID-19 vaccinations and their equitable distribution worldwide. In the case of Africa specifically, leaders supported increasing distribution, administration and local manufacturing capacity in low- and middle-income countries (LMICs), including through technology transfer hubs, such as the mRNA Hubs in South Africa and in Brazil and Argentina in South America. The Matera Declaration on Food Security, Nutrition, and Food Systems encouraged the international community to build inclusive and resilient food chains to ensure adequate nutrition for all by 2030.

Leaders committed to scaling up finance for adaptation and mitigation purposes in developing countries and welcomed the FSB Roadmap for Addressing Financial Risks from Climate Change. The presidency committed to mobilising international public and private finance to support green, inclusive and sustainable energy development and putting an end to the provision of international public finance for new, unabated coal power generation abroad by the end of 2021. This was with a view to phasing out investment in the coal industry as soon as possible. In 2021, the re-established Sustainable

¹⁷ AfDB, New report reveals African countries have generated €1.7 billion in additional revenues from tackling tax evasion and illicit financial flows (AfDB, July 7, 2023).

Finance Working Group published the G20 Sustainable Finance Roadmap, a five-year plan focusing on climate and sustainability, with specific attention given to addressing financial risks brought on by climate change. The declaration called on the IMF to establish the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) to provide affordable long-term financing to LICs, including those on the African continent. The RST was established in April 2022. The declaration welcomed the launch of the Independent Review of MDBs' Capital Adequacy Frameworks and the G20 Recommendations for the use of Policy-Based Lending, designed to maximise the impact of MDB lending.

During this presidency, the GPFI published the 2021 Update to Leaders on Progress Towards the Remittance Target, announcing that the weighted average total cost, which accounted for the relative size of the flows in each remittance corridor, was recorded as 4.54% in Q1 2021, down from 4.82% in Q4 2020. This was the second consecutive quarter in which this figure had been below 5%.

On the international tax agenda, the DWG's Rome Update reported that in 2021, the Global Forum on Transparency and Exchange of Information for Tax Purposes had 163 members, 89 of which were developing countries. This assistance translated into revenues of €29 billion through voluntary disclosure programmes and offshore tax investigations since 2009 (including €1.2 billion by African countries). As of 2021, the OECD Revenue Statistics initiative was partnering with almost 80 developing countries and regional organisations in Asia, Africa, Latin America and the Caribbean to produce high-quality, harmonised tax statistics. In 2021, following on from the G20 Roadmap for Enhancing Cross-Border Payments published in 2020, the FSB developed and the G20 endorsed a set of quantitative targets for cross-border payments, most of which were to be achieved by 2027. These targets underpinned the Roadmap's goal of achieving cheaper, faster, more transparent and more accessible cross-border payments, and creating accountability.

Recognising the progress that had been made on the G20 Initiative on Human Capital Investment for Sustainable Development (2019 Osaka Summit), members acknowledged the WBG's human development initiative and other regional and international learning programmes. In 2021, the WBG scaled up its human capital investments in sub-Saharan Africa with a strong focus on empowering women, leveraging technology and accelerating innovation, among other priorities. In the Middle East and North Africa, it focused on areas such as early childhood development and building resilience in vulnerable people.

Responding to the Riyadh Leaders' Declaration, which called for a roadmap to realise the Brisbane Summit goal of reducing the gender gap in labour market participation rates by 25% by 2025, along with improving the quality of women's employment, this presidency published the G20 Roadmap Towards and Beyond the Brisbane Target. In addition to reporting on indicators for participation in employment and job quality, by gender, the Roadmap asked the ILO and OECD to provide case studies highlighting successful policies and programmes implemented by member countries. Progress was made in 2021 in the #eSkills4Girls initiative. G20 member states implemented 36 flagship projects in

17 African countries, including Africa Code Workshops, which had reached more than 50 000 girls since 2017.¹⁸

In addition, the G20 2022–2024 Anti-Corruption Action Plan was published. This plan adopted a multi-stakeholder approach and drew attention to emerging issues such as corruption in sport, customs and the illegal wildlife trade, which had not been given as much prominence in the previous plan.

2022 Bali Summit, Indonesia

The Bali Leaders' Declaration reiterated members' continued support for Africa through the G20 CwA and the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialization in Africa and LDCs. The G20 Compendium of Case Studies on Digital Infrastructure Financing was published by the DWG. It assessed digital infrastructure development in Africa, including loan structures and funding sources for infrastructure, such as telecoms cables in Djibouti and connectivity cables in Malawi, as well as data privacy regulations and internet access. In the Infrastructure Working Group, it was agreed that a G20 Investors Dialogue should be organised every year so that institutional investors and developing countries could share their perspectives on how to scale up private sector participation in infrastructure development.

Leaders welcomed the operationalisation of the Resilience and Sustainability Trust (RST) which aimed to help LMICs build resilience to external, long-term structural challenges that pose macroeconomic risks. The presidency also welcomed the conclusion of the debt treatment for Chad and encouraged the timely conclusion of the debt treatment for Zambia by early 2023. Furthermore, the G20/OECD Roadmap on Developing Countries and International Taxation made some progress in Zambia and Botswana.

Leaders welcomed LIC representation in the establishment of the Pandemic Fund, hosted by the World Bank, and committed to increasing prevention preparedness and response capacity in LICs. G20 members committed to supporting MDB-based project preparation facilities in 2014, with the replenishment of the fund being listed as an on-track commitment in the Bali Update. Leaders also called for developing countries to be given access to affordable, sustainable energy, with the latest technology detailed in the Bali Compact. In addition, G20 leaders reiterated their commitment to achieving SDG 7 and launched the Bali Energy Transitions Roadmap – a detailed list of actions related to three priorities: securing energy accessibility, scaling up smart and clean energy technologies, and advancing clean energy financing. Under the second priority, there was a notable mention of the need to maximise integrated approaches for clean cooking and electrification in sub-Saharan Africa.

The Bali Leaders' Declaration launched the G20 Principles to Scale up Blended Finance in

¹⁸ DWG, the Rome Update (DWG, 2021).

Developing Countries including LDCs and SIDS and the G20 Bali Global Blended Finance Alliance (GBFA). The alliance set up a secretariat, and the OECD published a report identifying entry points and action areas to scale up blended finance. Under India's G20 presidency in 2023, a further study was conducted by the OECD on identifying bottlenecks to sustainable development finance in developing countries. So far, the DRC and Kenya are the only African countries to have signed the GBFA G20 Bali Letter of Intent.¹⁹

2023 New Delhi Summit, India

The AU was officially welcomed as a permanent member of the G20 during India's G20 presidency. The New Delhi Leaders' Declaration reiterated their continued support for Africa, including through the CwA. The leaders proposed the One Future Alliance (OFA), which is a voluntary initiative aimed at building technical assistance and adequate funding for the implementation of digital public infrastructure in LMICs. However, this was not acknowledged explicitly in the Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration in 2024.

In the 2023 DWG accountability report, it was noted that the proposed African Investment Observatory, being jointly established by the AU Commission and the OECD, signalled the G20's commitment to supporting industrialisation in Africa and LDCs. The declaration further expressed support for discussions on deepening cooperation between the G20 and other regional partners.

The New Delhi Summit introduced the G20 Roadmap for the Implementation of the Recommendations of the G20 Independent Review of Multilateral Development Banks' Capital Adequacy Frameworks, with the aim of advancing MDB reform. The report of the Independent Expert Group (IEG), commissioned under India's G20 presidency, recommended a triple agenda of MDB reforms, namely: (i) adopting a triple mandate of eliminating extreme poverty, boosting shared prosperity and contributing to the global public good; (ii) tripling sustainable lending levels by 2030; and (iii) creating a third funding mechanism that permits flexible and innovative arrangements for purposefully engaging with investors willing to support elements of the MDB agenda.

India's presidency launched the Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable with the IMF and World Bank, comprising official bilateral creditors (both traditional creditors/members of the Paris Club and new creditors), private creditors and borrowing countries. The purpose of the roundtable was to build consensus on debt sustainability and debt restructuring. The focus of the roundtable was on processes and standards between public and private creditors and borrowing countries. The presidency expressed its appreciation for discussions among MDBs, credit rating agencies and shareholders, which encouraged transparency in rating methodologies. The presidency also welcomed the Sustainable Finance Working Group (SFWG) recommendations for scaling up blended finance and

¹⁹ Sustainable Development Solutions Network, Historic Launch of the G20 Bali Global Blended Finance Alliance to Unlock Green Investment for the Global South (SDSN, 2024).

risk-sharing facilities (appearing in the 2023 Sustainable Finance Report), including the enhanced role of MDBs, to support the Paris Agreement and respond to the call for the replenishment of the Green Climate Fund. Leaders noted the need for \$4 trillion per year for clean energy technologies by 2030, to reach zero emissions by 2050.

The 2023 G20 GPFI Financial Inclusion Action Plan (FIAP) captured the GPFI's evolving priorities, which included harnessing technological innovations to responsibly advance financial inclusion and to promote safe, secure and interoperable digital public infrastructure. Mention was made of the adoption of mobile money in sub-Saharan Africa, where account ownership had increased substantially (by 36.3 percentage points in the space of 10 years, reaching 55% in 2021).

India's G20 presidency requested that the IMF and FSB provide a report that addressed the macroeconomic and financial stability risks posed by crypto-asset activities and markets, while welcoming the IMF–FSB Synthesis Paper: Policies for Crypto Assets. The paper concluded with an implementation roadmap and showed that emerging economies faced amplified macro-financial risks from crypto assets.

2024 Rio de Janeiro Summit, Brazil

The G20 Rio de Janeiro Leaders' Declaration committed to working to enhance tools and mechanisms to fight inequality. These mechanisms included enhanced development cooperation with the assistance of MDBs and innovative financial tools and mechanisms, such as blended finance to promote clear frameworks for allocation of concessional resources to support LICs and middle-income countries (MICs).

The presidency introduced the G20 Roadmap for MDB Reform which outlined the presidency's plan for 'better, bigger and more effective MDBs', focusing on increasing MDBs' financing capacity, maximising their impact and encouraging better collaboration with various stakeholders. The roadmap also emphasised the need for MDBs to work more effectively 'as a system'.

The campaign, Scaling up Renewables in Africa, launched by South Africa and the EU on the sidelines of the Rio de Janeiro Summit, sought to drive new commitments on policy and finance from governments, financial institutions, the private sector and philanthropists.

The leaders endorsed the Rio de Janeiro G20 Ministerial Declaration on International Tax Cooperation. This declaration endorsed progressive taxation to support the mobilisation of the SDGs, including support for fairer and more progressive domestic tax reforms. G20 leaders endorsed the effective taxation of ultra-high-net-worth individuals, promoting the Inclusive Framework on Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS IF) to investigate more effective and progressive tax policies.

G20 leaders also launched the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, whose goals

were to support efforts to eradicate poverty and hunger. The alliance's core tool was the [Policy Basket](#), which provided a menu of policy instruments and programmes that could be adapted to specific national or subnational contexts. These included cash transfers, improved access to microfinance and social protection. The alliance was designed to reduce the duplication of projects by aligning support, both domestic and international.²⁰

The [2024 G20 Sustainable Finance Report](#) was notable for its focus on advancing credible, robust and just transition plans, analysing the implementation challenges of sustainability reporting standards, and promoting financing for nature-based solutions. It also highlighted the need for increased private capital investment in sustainable projects, particularly in developing countries, while also addressing potential debt burdens. Africa was highlighted for the work being done on sustainable finance taxonomies relating to biodiversity on the continent, as well as climate-related risks and opportunities.

The [Women at Work in G20 countries: Progress and policy action in 2023](#) provided an update on progress made towards the Brisbane Goal. Where most countries' employment rates had returned to pre-pandemic levels, South Africa was noted to be an exception, as unemployment levels in Q1 2024 were higher than in 2019. South Africa was also identified as an outlier when it came to the men's employment rate of 45%, compared to 70–85% in other countries. Only Saudi Arabia had a lower women's employment rate (30%) than South Africa (35%). South Africa was also flagged for not providing data on the gender pay gap in 2023. Overall, progress towards the achievement of the Brisbane Goal had been set back by the COVID-19 pandemic. This presidency committed to implementing the G20 Roadmap Towards and Beyond the Brisbane Target and also noted that new G20 commitments for the post-2025 period to close the gender pay gap would be formulated in the future.

The leaders pledged to increase Africa's representation both in the United Nations (UN) and the IMF. They committed to reforming the UN Security Council to make it more representative, accountable and transparent, with enlarged representation of underrepresented and unrepresented countries and regions, such as Africa, Asia-Pacific, Latin America and the Caribbean.

From ambitions to action: SMART goals

The Leaders' Declaration announced an initiative that could be followed periodically through progress reports. This process started with a call to action or a commitment to deliver, followed by recommitments or endorsements. These are sometimes deferred or ideally followed by the publication of a framework, toolkit, roadmap or initiative. Such publications have goals, and occasionally a specific, measurable, achievable, relevant and timebound (SMART) goal exists. Sometimes goals are achieved and sometimes they are

²⁰ Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, [Policy Basket – Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty](#) (Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty, 2024).

delayed or renewed. Here, the goals/activities were analysed in terms of their mentions in the Leaders' Declarations and progress reports, and in the progress made.

Looking at the past G20 presidencies, the analysis identified 21 SMART goals pertaining to Africa (Table 1). Eight of these were classified under the 'Environment and Climate Change' theme; seven under the 'Global Economic Reform and Financial Architecture' theme; three under the 'Human Resources and Development' theme; two under the 'Infrastructure, Development and SDGs' theme; and one under the 'Governance' theme.

TABLE 1 SMART GOALS IDENTIFIED	
Summit	Goal
Global Economic Reform and Financial Architecture	
2009 Pittsburgh	IMF 14th General Review of Quotas: IMF committed to shift the voting share 5% towards emerging markets by January 2011
2017 Hamburg	IMF 15th General Review of Quotas: We look forward to the completion of the 15th General Review of IMF Quotas, including a new quota formula, by the Spring Meetings 2019 and no later than the Annual Meetings 2019.
2020 Riyadh	IMF 16th General Review of Quotas: We will continue the process of IMF governance reform under the 16th general review of quotas, including a new quota formula as a guide, by 15 December 2023.
2013 St Petersburg	Remittances: G20 to pursue efforts to reduce global average cost of transferring remittances to 5%, enhance financial literacy and increase financial inclusion
2020 Riyadh	FSB Report: Welcome reports on the Blueprints for Pillar 1 and Pillar 2 approved for public release and remain committed to further progress on both pillars with view to reach global consensus by mid 2021
2021 Rome	FSB Report: cross border payments global targets addressing cost, speed, transparency and access by 2027
2022 Bali	BEPS Framework: OECD/G20 Inclusive Framework on BEPS to finalise Pillar 1 in first half of 2023 and to complete negotiations of the Subject To Tax Rule (STTR) under Pillar 2
Infrastructure, Development and SDGs	
2012 Los Cabas	Food Security: The Action Plan on Food Price Volatility (2011) underlined that to feed world's population in 2050 (9,3 billion), agricultural production in developing countries will have to increase by 100%
2017 Hamburg	Digital Connection: We will strive to ensure that all our citizens are digitally connected by 2025 and especially welcome infrastructure development in LICs
Environment and Climate change	
2010 Toronto	Reaffirm support for Copenhagen Accord and support its implementation: developed countries to raise \$100 billion per year by 2020, from "a wide variety of sources", to help developing countries cut carbon emissions
2015 Antalya	Temperature Goal: Reaffirm the below 2 degrees goal (Lima Call for Action) and agree that Paris agreement should be fair
2019 Osaka	Ocean Vision: Osaka Blue Ocean Vision aims to reduce additional marine pollution by marine plastic litter to zero by 2050
2020 Riyadh	Land Degradation: Launch G20 Global Initiative on Reducing Land Degradation sharing ambition to a 50% reduction of degraded lands by 2040

2021 Rome	Decarbonisation: We will put an end to the provision of international public finance for new unabated coal power generation abroad by the end of 2021
2021 Rome	Conservation: Recognise efforts towards Leaders' Pledge to ensure that 30% of global land and 30% of global oceans and seas are conserved by 2030
2023 New Delhi	Clean technology: Note the need for \$ 4 trillion per year for clean energy technologies by 2030 to reach zero emissions by 2050
2024 Rio de Janeiro	Climate Finance: Aspirational goal of \$1,3 trillion per year in international public and private financial flows to developing countries by 2035.
Human Resource Training and Development	
2014 Brisbane	Brisbane Goal: we agree to reducing the gap in the participation rates between men and women in our countries by 25% by 2025, taking into account national circumstances, to bring more than 100 million women into the labour force
2015 Antalya	Antalya Youth Goal: reducing the share of young people who are most at risk of being permanently left behind in the labour market by 15% by 2025
2017 Hamburg	Rural Youth Employment: Launch G20 Initiative for Rural and Youth Employment in Developing Countries with a focus on Africa - this initiative will contribute to creating 1,1 million new jobs by 2022 and to providing innovative skills for at 5 million young people over next five years
Governance	
2016 Hangzhou	Child Labour: Will take immediate and effective measures to eliminate child labour by 2025, forced labour, human trafficking and modern slavery

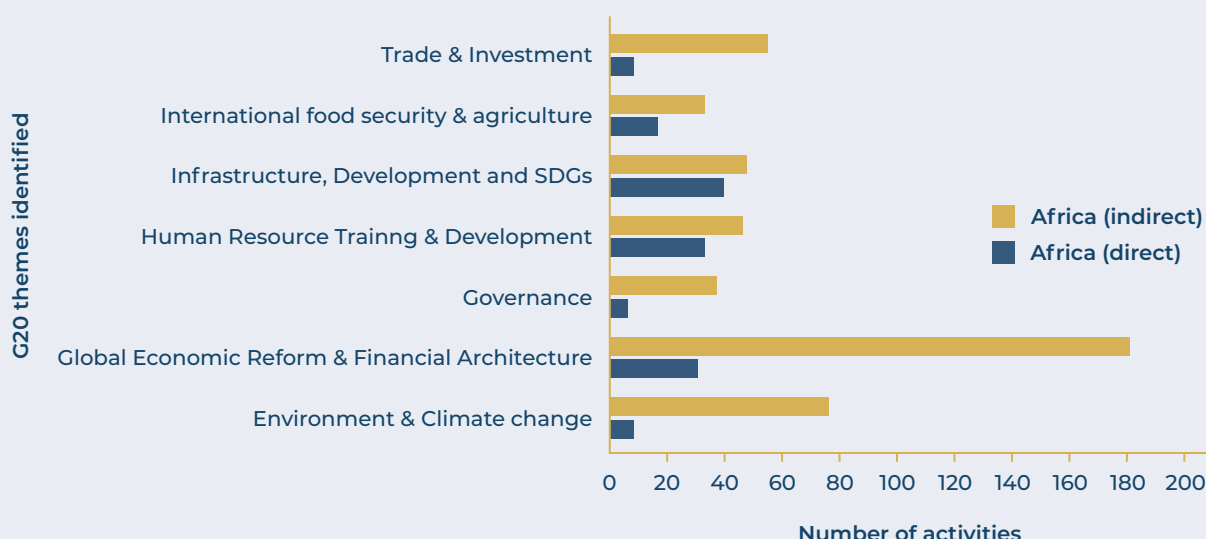
Source: Multiple G20 documents compiled by the authors

Implementation status of G20 commitments to Africa

This section looks at the G20 outcomes by theme and discusses the areas where G20 activity intersects with AU aspirations. It also looks at the high-level deliverables under South Africa's G20 presidency.

The concentration of outcomes for Africa in various themes

Figure 1 G20 outcomes related to Africa (directly and indirectly)

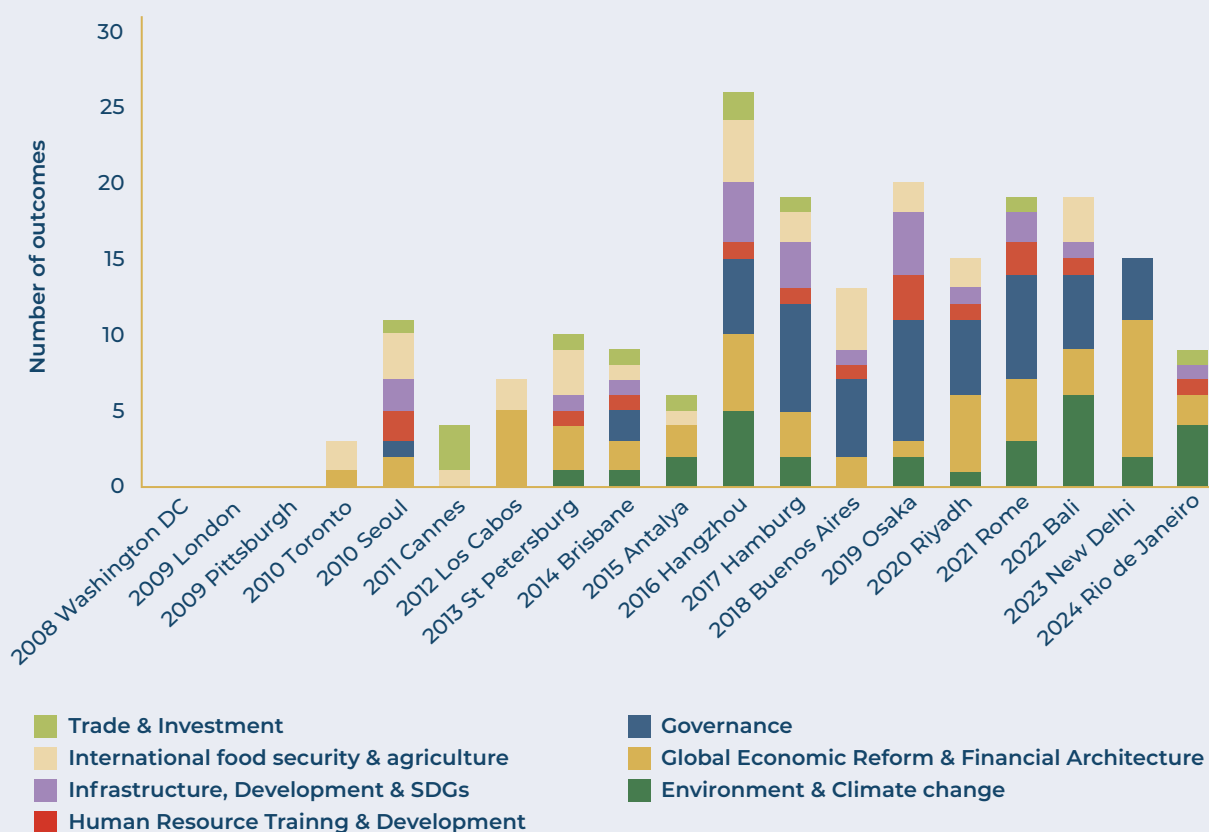


Note: Here, 'Africa' refers to activities that directly target African countries and 'Africa (indirect)' refers to activities that affect African countries but are not Africa-specific

Source: Multiple G20 documents compiled by the authors

Figures 1 and 2 show the outcomes related to Africa, both directly and indirectly, with Figure 2 presenting the information over the 19 presidencies by theme. Outcomes in this context are the documents, frameworks and roadmaps that apply to the different themes. Figure 2 does not display the effectiveness of the G20's reaction to the financial crisis as the commitments largely related to the international financial and economic system and not just Africa or Africa (indirect). 'Africa' refers to Africa, African countries in general and specific African countries. 'Africa (indirect)' refers to developing countries, Global South countries and emerging markets.

Figure 2 G20 outcomes related to Africa (directly and indirectly) over the 19 presidencies by theme



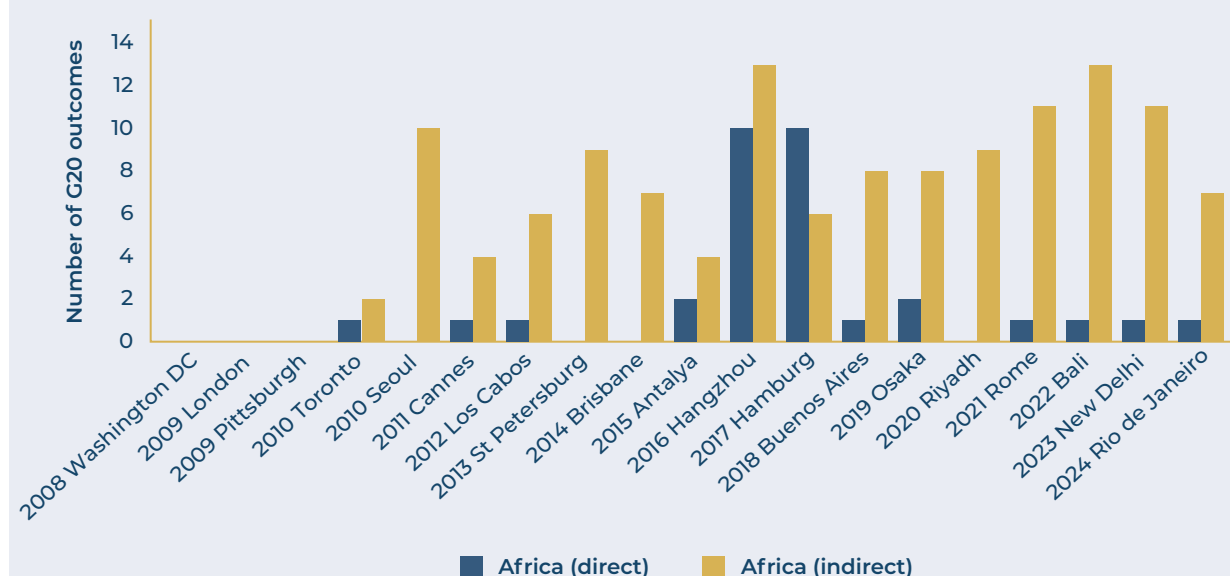
Source: Multiple G20 documents compiled by the authors

International food security and agriculture, along with the environment and climate change, have received more attention over the past few years (2019–2024). Outcomes related to these are typically ‘global’ and do not mention Africa directly. This is why the trend is not necessarily reflected in Figure 2. Brazil (Rio de Janeiro Summit) shows no representation of food security and agriculture, despite the launch of initiatives such as the Global Alliance Against Hunger and Poverty. This is because the latter was a global initiative, not an Africa- or developing country-specific one. Therefore, while obviously benefitting Africa, it cannot be considered an outcome for Africa.

The methodology used for the graphs in figures 1 and 2 is not a perfect science, as the G20 repeats activities from year to year with frequent overlaps of outcomes pertaining to different themes. Many references are surface-level commitments without follow-through. Thus, the authors used their discretion in deciding what was an outcome and what was not. Commitments and recommitments are essentially mentions in the leaders’ declarations and were not counted as outcomes but rather as activities. ‘Activities’ are used to refer to any mention of a commitment, recommitment or progress towards a goal, and anything that can be counted as a reference to a specific goal. Outcomes and

activities have been differentiated as follows: outcomes are evidence of tangible progress having been made, such as the launch of an initiative or increased spending towards a goal, while activities simply refer to how much attention (productive or otherwise) has been given to a specific theme. This is why there is significantly more activity in Figure 1 than there are outcomes in Figure 2. It is important to note that the G20 has strong agenda-setting capabilities in many international forums. Thus, there is value in repeated mentions of certain commitments and the measuring of ‘activity’ – as was done in Part 1 of this handbook.

Figure 3 G20 outcomes related to Africa (directly or indirectly) over the 19 presidencies by summit



Source: Multiple G20 documents compiled by the authors

Figure 3 shows the number of outcomes related to Africa and Africa (indirect) by summit. There were more direct outcomes for Africa specifically during China's and Germany's presidencies. Germany's presidency was the only one with more direct outcomes than indirect ones. As explained in Part 1, this trend is likely due to China's and Germany's Africa-related outcomes being complementary to existing projects and topics that already had significant political will behind them. A persistent trend is that topics that are close to the national interest of the host country are more likely to have traction during the country's presidency.

Figure 4 Composition of progress in commitments to Africa over the 19 presidencies



Source: Multiple G20 documents compiled by the authors

Figure 4 shows that progress has been demonstrated with the majority of commitments made towards Africa. Many of the commitments have been re-endorsed, with less support for goals. The graph shows a small number of SMART goals. Interestingly, there have been more delayed goals than successful (achieved) goals, and even less renewal of goals.

The Africa we want is the Africa the world needs

Although the increased focus on African interests and issues has been welcomed, it is important to reflect on how these commitments align with Africa's own aspirations and priorities. Table 2 shows the AU's priorities, as captured in Agenda 2063, and outlines the goals associated with these priorities.

TABLE 2 AU ASPIRATIONS
A1 - A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development
A High Standard of Living, Quality of Life and Well Being for All Citizens
Blue/ ocean economy for accelerated economic growth
Environmentally sustainable and climate resilient economies and communities
Healthy and well-nourished citizens
Modern Agriculture for increased productivity and production
Transformed Economies
Well Educated Citizens and Skills revolution underpinned by Science, Technology and Innovation
A2 - An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa's Renaissance
Continental Financial and Monetary Institutions are established and functional
United Africa (Federal or Confederate)
World Class Infrastructure crisscrosses Africa
A3 - An Africa of good governance, democracy, respect for human rights, justice and the rule of law
Capable institutions and transformative leadership in place
Democratic values, practices, universal principles of human rights, justice and the rule of law entrenched
A4 - A peaceful and secure Africa
A Fully functional and operational APSA
A Stable and Peaceful Africa
Peace Security and Stability is preserved
A5 - An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics
African Cultural Renaissance is pre- eminent
A6 - An Africa, whose development is people-driven, relying on the potential of African people, especially its women and youth, and caring for children
Engaged and Empowered Youth and Children
Full Gender Equality in All Spheres of Life
A7 - Africa as a strong, united, resilient and influential global player and partner
Africa as a major partner in global affairs and peaceful co-existence
Africa takes full responsibility for financing her development

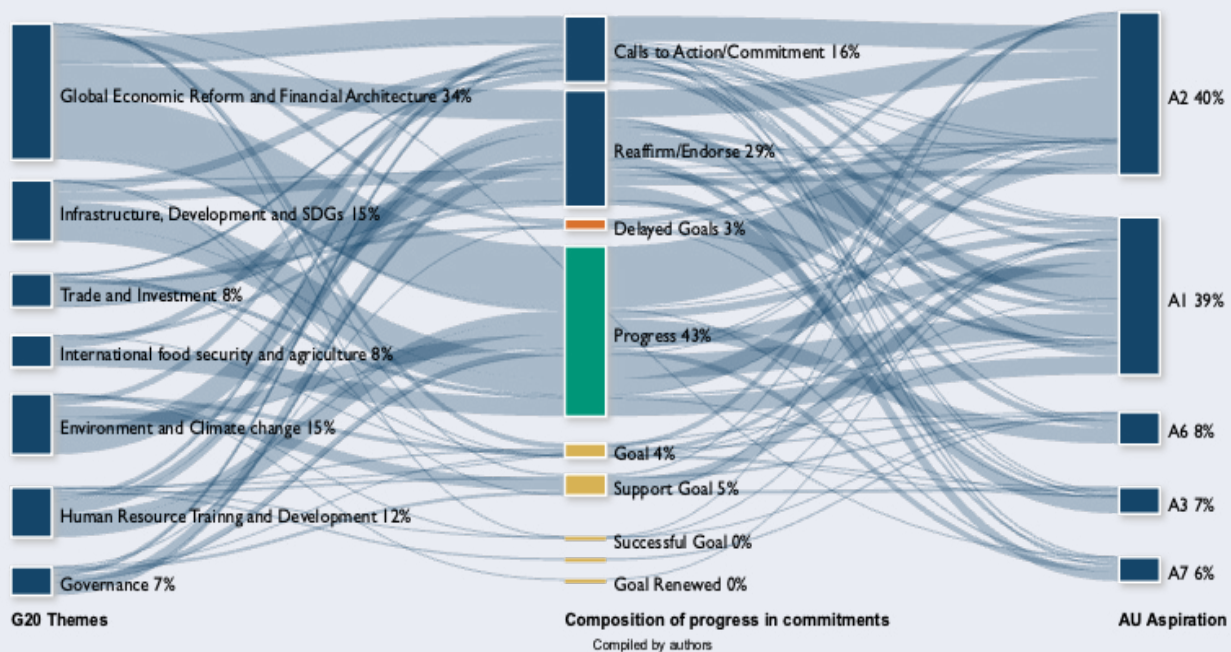
Source: AU, *Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want*, compiled by the authors

As South Africa's presidency brings the first full cycle of G20 presidencies to a close and enables a review of the collective achievements to date, proposing a way forward for the next cycle, the synergies between G20 commitments and African countries' aspirations should be given more comprehensive consideration.

Figure 5 maps the G20 activities/outcomes related to Africa across the G20 presidencies (grouped into broad G20 themes) against the seven African aspirations identified in [Agenda 2063](#). The left column shows the commitments made through themes such as global economic reform and financial architecture, which accounted for 34% of the

commitments made. The middle column shows ‘activities’, which are separated into commitments, re-endorsements of commitments, delays, progress made, goals set, support for goals, successful goals (goals achieved), goals renewed and progress made once goals were achieved. The right column shows how G20 commitments flow into the seven AU aspirations by percentage.

Figure 5 G20 activities/outcomes mapped into AU aspirations



Source: AU, *Our Aspirations for the Africa We Want*, and various G20 documents compiled by the authors. Graphic by authors

It is clear that some progress (41%) has been made on the commitments, especially relating to global economic reform and infrastructure and development issues. Although only 3% of commitments have been delayed, a significant proportion (29%) are endorsed and reaffirmed commitments – important for continuity but not necessarily showing progress towards achievement. ‘Delays’ are determined largely through the DWG’s accountability frameworks. Information from these documents was inputted and consolidated by the authors using Microsoft Excel.

Most (43% and 36%) of the commitments fit within Aspiration 2 (An integrated continent, politically united and based on the ideals of Pan-Africanism and the vision of Africa’s Renaissance) and Aspiration 1 (A prosperous Africa based on inclusive growth and sustainable development). Aspiration 4 (A peaceful and secure Africa) and Aspiration 5 (An Africa with a strong cultural identity, common heritage, shared values and ethics) are notably absent.

It should be noted that the percentages provided in this section are the result of extensive mapping of G20 documents and can only be considered approximations.

South Africa's presidency is future-focused and people-centred

South Africa's G20 presidency chose the theme of 'Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability'. This theme is based on the principle of Ubuntu. Ubuntu is a southern African philosophy that means, 'I am because we are' or 'I am because you are'. The presidency set the following overarching principles: 1. strengthening disaster resilience and response, 2. taking action to ensure debt sustainability for low-income countries, 3. mobilising finance for a just energy transition, and 4. harnessing critical minerals for inclusive growth and sustainable development. The presidency chose three high-level deliverables, which are:²¹

1 Three task forces:

Task Force 1 on Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrialisation, Employment and Reduced Inequality.

The task force focuses on two themes: green industrialisation and critical minerals. The task force aims to produce a document 'G20 Principles for Inclusive Economic Growth, Industrialisation, Jobs and Equality' and a Critical Minerals Framework. The zero drafts (unofficial working documents) of these documents were presented at the second meeting of Task Force 1 in May 2025.²²

Task Force 2 on Food Security. The task force aims to produce four studies: 1. an analysis of the effect on domestic food prices by global trade prices, supply chains and market concentrations, 2. a regional and global-level feasibility study on commodity price stabilisation techniques, 3. an analysis of the regulations and standards related to international commodity markets, corporations in the sector and cross-border flows, and 4. an exploration of policy and implementation strategies linking with national strategies for 'global, regional, and sub-regional food security and food sovereignty approaches for climate resilient and sustainable food systems'.²³

Task Force 3 on Artificial Intelligence, Data Governance and Innovation for Sustainable Development. This task force has the capacity to build AI capabilities on the continent as a priority and aims to close the digital divide. It undertakes to develop a responsible data governance framework and to foster innovation around the SDGs, in alignment with the AU Agenda 2030.²⁴

2 A G20@20 Review to evaluate the G20's performance in the first cycle of presidencies and consider the way forward.

21 G20 South Africa, [G20 South Africa High-Level Deliverables](#) (G20.org, 2025).

22 G20 South Africa, [Task Force 1 Convenes its Second Meeting – G20 South Africa](#), G20 South Africa, May 15, 2025.

23 G20 South Africa Task Force 2, [Task Force 2 Concept Note](#) (G20.org, 2025).

24 G20 South Africa Task Force 3, [Task Force 3 Concept Note](#) (G20.org, 2025).

- 3 An initiative on critical minerals to prioritise increased investment, beneficiation and integration of artisanal mining into the mainstream economy. This operates separately to the Critical Minerals Framework of Task Force 1, as the initiative includes stakeholder engagement.

In addition, South Africa's minister of finance, who chairs the finance track, established the Africa Expert Panel tasked with advising the South African presidency on issues relating to economic and developmental challenges. This Africa Expert Panel is chaired by South Africa's former finance minister, Trevor Manuel.²⁵ Recently, the South African presidency launched the Extraordinary Committee of Independent Experts headed by Professor Joseph Stiglitz, which was tasked with producing the first report on global inequality for G20 leaders since the G20'sin 2008.²⁶

As the G20 moves into the second cycle of presidencies in 2026, many member states have recognised that the agenda has broadened considerably over the years and that narrowing it may enable the grouping to become more effective in the areas in which it has been the strongest in the past, namely international financial and economic issues. However, to enhance both the legitimacy and effectiveness of the G20 as a forum – whose purpose is strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth – the G20 in the next cycle of presidencies needs to retain the link between macro-economic and financial elements and development, especially in relation to African and other developing countries.

25 Daniel Bradlow and Kesaobaka Nancy Mopipi, June 2025, [What Can South Africa do on Debt and Development in its Remaining Term as G20 Presidency?](#)

26 The Presidency of the Republic of South Africa, August 28, 2025, [President Cyril Ramaphosa launches historic G20 experts taskforce led by Joseph Stiglitz to combat extreme wealth inequality | The Presidency.](#)

Conclusion

The first cycle of G20 presidencies has shown a gradual yet significant shift in global economic governance towards the recognition and tackling of Africa's development priorities. From the early post-financial crisis summits to the inclusion of the AU as a permanent G20 member in 2023, the G20's engagements with Africa have evolved from ad hoc initiatives to more structured partnerships. While important milestones, such as the CwA, targeted infrastructure and energy programmes, and pandemic support demonstrate growing commitment, persistent implementation gaps and a lack of financing in critical areas reinforce the need for a more streamlined and accountable approach.

As the G20 enters its second cycle of presidencies, there is an opportunity but also an imperative to build on past initiatives by aligning more systematically with Africa's own development agenda, particularly Agenda 2063. Ensuring meaningful African participation, advancing structural reforms, and deepening cooperation in areas like climate finance, food security, digital transformation and institutional capacity are essential for translating commitments into lasting impact. A more transformative G20–Africa partnership grounded in mutual accountability, shared priorities and regional leadership will be key to realising inclusive and sustainable growth on the African continent.



*African perspectives.
Global insights.*

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