



The Commonwealth



The Commonwealth-La Francophonie G20 Annual Dialogue 2017

Discussion Paper

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The G20 Agenda: Recent Outcomes, Opportunities and Challenges

Background

The Group of Twenty (G20) comprises 19 major industrialised and emerging economies and the European Union. Traditionally, the annual meetings of G20 heads of state and government have focused on issues relating to world economic growth, international trade and the regulation of financial markets. At their summit in Seoul in 2010, G20 heads of state and government agreed on a global development strategy that focuses on inclusive economic growth as the centrepiece of plans to tackle global poverty reduction. Ever since, development policy has been a topic in its own right on the agenda of the G20 process.

Accompanying their development agenda, the G20 has also advanced a programme of outreach. Indeed, in the last G20 Development Working Group (DWG) Comprehensive Accountability Report - completed under China's Presidency (2016) - outreach was identified as an important feature of the G20 development agenda. It provides an opportunity to obtain the views of non-G20 countries on policy issues and for non-G20 countries and other stakeholders to discuss the G20 development area and identify links with their own national and regional development policies.

Since 2010, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie have sought to work with successive G20 Presidents to develop an effective outreach platform for their respective member states to discuss the G20 development agenda. Together, the Commonwealth and La Francophonie represent 111 countries, including 80 of the world's developing countries.

Recent G20 Outcomes: The G20 Hamburg Summit

On 1 December 2016, Germany assumed the G20 Presidency, adopting the theme *Shaping an interconnected world*. The G20 Hamburg Summit was held in July 2017.

In the first half of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie Annual Dialogue 2017, Mr Dominik Ziller, of the German Federal Ministry of Economic Cooperation and Development (BMZ), will provide a summary of the G20 Hamburg Summit Outcomes related to global development strategy. This will be followed by a facilitated Q&A session, where participants are encouraged:

- i) to raise questions and comments regarding the G20 Hamburg Summit Outcomes, reflecting on how it links to and could enhance their national priorities and initiatives; and
- ii) to provide feedback on the relevance of this agenda, as well as approaches to strengthening the conception and implementation of the G20 Hamburg initiatives.

A selection of the G20 Hamburg Summit Outcomes related to global development strategy are provided below, with the aim of providing member states with information to inform and guide the Q&A session.

Sharing the Benefits of Globalisation: The G20 continues to support a prospering global economy as well as enhanced global trade and investment by promoting a favourable environment for its advancement and a non-protectionist approach. The G20 calls for the urgent removal of market-distorting subsidies, including concrete policy options to reduce steel excess capacity. The G20 supports the implementation of inclusive global chains by enhancing the implementation of labour, social and environmental standards.

The G20's new focus on harnessing digitalisation will be the cornerstone of facilitating inclusive and sustainable growth and greater employment.

Resilient Global Financial System and Strong International Financial Architecture: The G20 remains committed to the implementation of the G20 financial sector reform agenda and the finalisation of the Basel III framework. A strong, quota-based and adequately resourced International Monetary Fund is at the centre of the G20's global commitment to strong economic and financial institutions. The G20 supports the more effective use of capital from multilateral development banks (MDBs) and endorses the MDB Joint Principles and Ambitions on Crowding-In Private Finance.

International Tax Co-Operation and Financial Transparency: The G20 remains committed to the implementation of the Base Erosion and Profit Shifting (BEPS) package and encourages all relevant jurisdictions to join the Inclusive Framework. It continues to support the Organisation for Economic Co-operation and Development's tax transparency work and has initiated work on tax certainty.

New G20 African Partnership: A core element of this new initiative are the investment partnerships with interested African countries ("Compacts") to promote more private investment. The focus will be on areas such as renewable energies, employment and fair taxation.

G20 Climate and Energy Action: The G20 remains collectively committed to mitigating greenhouse gas emissions and fulfilling the United Nations Framework Convention on Climate Change commitment by developed countries to assist global adaptation and mitigation efforts. In addition, the G20 is forging a global partnership for climate risk insurance schemes for the most vulnerable, helping developing countries implement their climate policies and expanding climate-friendly energy systems for poor people, especially in Africa.

G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment: Through this initiative, the G20 is promoting sustainable employment opportunities and prospects for the future of young people in rural areas, especially in Africa. The aims include enabling five million young people to benefit from training opportunities and one million jobs to be created for young people by 2022.

Advancing Women's Empowerment:

A Women Entrepreneurs Financing Initiative will give women entrepreneurs better access to financial services. G20 countries are providing a total of US\$325 million for the initiative. The G20 #eSkills4Girls Initiative provides a platform for sharing knowledge and best practice for strengthening the digital skills of women and girls.

Promoting Small and Medium-Sized Enterprises:

The G20 is promoting financing models that help small and medium-sized enterprises in global supply chains to create fairer working conditions and comply with social and environmental standards.

Strong Health Systems: The G20 is committed to strengthening healthcare systems for universal health coverage with a view to preventing and fighting pandemics and implementing action against antimicrobial resistance.

Financial Services for Disadvantaged Groups: A new action plan has been agreed to help primarily women, young people, refugees and people in rural areas access formal financial systems.

Marine Biodiversity and The Battle Against Marine Litter: The G20 resource Efficiency Dialogue will facilitate exchange of good practices to improve the efficiency and sustainability of natural resource use, while the Marine Litter Action Plan seeks to prevent marine litter to protect the seas and oceans.

Opportunities and Challenges of the G20 Agenda: Reflections from the Incoming G20 Presidency

The Argentinian Government will officially take on the role of G20 President in December 2017. The second half of the Commonwealth and La Francophonie Annual Dialogue 2017 will provide a platform for the Argentinian Government to provide its reflections on the opportunities and challenges of the G20 Agenda. Ambassador Pedro Villagra Delgado, the Argentinian G20 Sherpa will speak in this session, after which time will be allocated for a facilitated discussion.

In the Q&A session, members are encouraged to provide feedback to Argentina on its reflections, as well as identify any areas senior officials consider could benefit from G20 engagement.

Further information will be provided by the Argentinian Government during the meeting.