



G20: A Forum for Developing World

This editorial is based on the Article [How India made G20 a forum for developing countries](#) which was published in The Indian Express on 11/09/2023. It talks about the inclusion of the African Union in G20 as an achievement of India's Presidency and reflects its commitment to the developmental agenda of the Global South.

For Prelims: [African Union](#), [G20](#), [India's G20 Presidency](#), [European Union](#), [LiFE \(Lifestyle for Environment\)](#), Development Cooperation with Africa, [Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030](#), Climate Finance and Technology Transfer, International Financial Institutions Reform, AfCFTA, Renewable Energy and Digital Economy, [Disaster Risk Reduction and Resilience](#), [Startup 20 and Innovation](#), [Women-led Development](#), [Global South](#), [Sustainable Development Goals](#), [Launch of Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable](#), [global biofuel alliance](#), [Export-Import Bank of India](#), [Pan-African e-Network Project](#), [India-Africa Forum Summit](#), [India-Africa Health Sciences Platform](#), [International Solar Alliance](#), [Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure](#), [Nalanda University](#), [GDP](#), [United Nations \(UN\)](#), [Commonwealth](#), [Francophonie](#).

For Mains: Bilateral Groupings and related issues, India's Interests on the global stage, Effect of Policies and Politics of Countries on India's interest

The 18th G20 Summit, hosted by New Delhi in September 2023, witnessed a historic expansion of the group with the admission of the [African Union \(AU\)](#) as a permanent member. The AU, a continental body of 55 member states, now has the same status as the [European Union](#), the only regional bloc with full membership.

- The move was proposed by India in June 2023 and welcomed by the AU and other [G20](#) members. The inclusion of the AU in G20 is an achievement of India's Presidency and reflects its commitment to the developmental agenda of the Global South.

What is Development Cooperation Under India's G20 Presidency?

- India assumed the G20 Presidency in December 2022, with the theme of '**Vasudhaiv Kutumbkam**' i.e. 'One Earth · One Family · One Future'. India's vision for the G20 Presidency was to promote green development, climate finance, and [LiFE \(Lifestyle for Environment\)](#); accelerate inclusive and resilient growth; advance progress on [Sustainable Development Goals](#); foster technological transformation and digital public infrastructure; reform multilateral institutions for the 21st century; and support women-led development.
- India also introduced new initiatives such as a Disaster Risk Reduction Working Group; Startup 20 Engagement Group; [Launch of Global Sovereign Debt Roundtable](#); and a proposal for a [global biofuel alliance](#).
- India's G20 Presidency also showcased its development cooperation with Africa and other

developing regions. India has been a longstanding partner of Africa, sharing its experience and expertise in various fields such as agriculture, health, education, energy, infrastructure, digital technology, capacity building, and peacekeeping.

- India has extended concessional lines of credit worth USD 10.5 billion for 182 projects in Africa through the [Export-Import Bank of India](#). India has also launched several flagship programs such as the [Pan-African e-Network Project](#), Team-9 Initiative, [India-Africa Forum Summit](#), India-Africa Trade Council, [India-Africa Health Sciences Platform](#), and India-Africa Institute of Agriculture and Rural Development. India has also supported Africa's participation in multilateral platforms such as the [International Solar Alliance](#), [Coalition for Disaster Resilient Infrastructure](#), and [Nalanda University](#).



G-20 (The Group of Twenty)

About

- In 1999, following the **Asian Financial Crisis** of the **1990s**, **G20** was established as a Forum for **Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors**.
- Raised to the **Summit level in 2008** to address the global financial and economic crisis of 2008.

Aims

- Secure global financial stability by involving world's largest advanced and emerging economies.

Structure and Functioning of G20

- The **G20 Presidency** rotates annually
- No permanent **Secretariat** or **Headquarters**
- **19 countries** are divided into **5 groups**
- The presidency rotates between each group

Troika

- It is a working association between the **current presidency, past presidency** and **next presidency**.

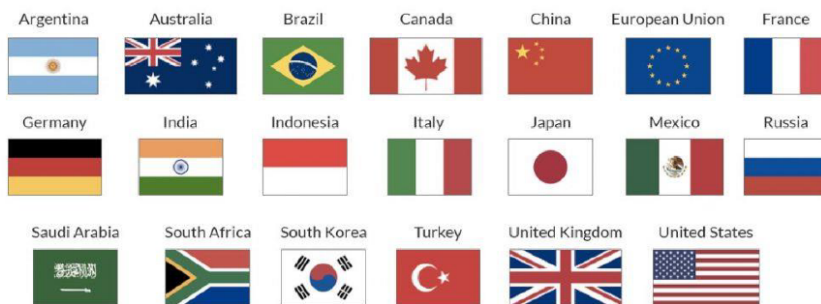
Challenges

- No Enforcement mechanism
- No legal binding
- Polarization of Interests:
 - Russia Ukraine Conflict
 - China's strategic rise
 - NATO's expansion

G20 India 2023

- India assumed the **18th G20 Presidency from December 1, 2022** for a **one-year period**.
- **Theme:**
 - "**Vasudhaiva Kutumbakam**" a Sanskrit word which Stands for "**One Earth · One Family. One Future**".
 - This is taken from the ancient Sanskrit text of the '**Maha Upanishad**'.

G20 COUNTRIES



What are the Advantages and Opportunities for Africa After Inclusion in G20?

- The inclusion of the AU in G20 is a significant step towards more inclusive and representative global governance. The AU represents a continent with 1.4 billion people and a collective **GDP** of USD 3 trillion.
- Africa is also one of the fastest-growing regions in the world, with a projected growth rate of 4.1% in 2023.
- Africa's voice and perspective are essential for addressing global challenges such as poverty eradication, climate change, health security, digital transformation, trade facilitation, debt sustainability, and peace and security.
- The inclusion of the AU in G20 also offers benefits and opportunities for both Africa and G20 members.
 - **For Africa**, it provides a platform to advance its common interests and aspirations on the global stage, such as
 - the implementation of Agenda 2063 and Agenda 2030,
 - the operationalization of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA),
 - the mobilization of climate finance and technology transfer, and
 - the reform of international financial institutions.
 - **For G20 members**, it opens new avenues for cooperation and partnership with Africa in various sectors such as infrastructure development, renewable energy, digital economy, health care, education, agriculture, tourism, and culture.
 - It also enhances mutual understanding and trust among G20 members and African countries.

What are the Challenges Africa and the World Will Face in its Engagement with G 20?

The inclusion of the AU in G20 also poses some challenges and requires some actions to ensure its effectiveness and sustainability. Some of these challenges are:

- The AU will have to coordinate its positions and priorities with its member states and regional economic communities to ensure coherence and consistency in its engagement with the G20.
- The AU will have to strengthen its institutional capacity and human resources to participate effectively in the G20 processes and meetings across various tracks and work streams.
- The AU will have to balance its commitments and obligations with other regional and global platforms such as the African Union Commission (AUC), African Union Development Agency (AUDA-NEPAD), **United Nations (UN)**, European Union (EU), **Commonwealth**, **Francophonie**, etc.
- The AU will have to manage its expectations and interests with those of other G20 members who may have different agendas and perspectives on various issues.
- The AU will have to ensure that its participation in the G20 leads to tangible outcomes and benefits for Africa's development.

Way Forward:

The AU should establish a dedicated mechanism or unit within its structures to coordinate its engagement with the G20. This mechanism or unit should liaise closely with the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, regional economic communities, member states, civil society, the private sector, and other stakeholders to formulate and communicate Africa's positions and priorities on the G20 agenda.

- The AU should seek technical and financial support from the G20 members and other partners to enhance its capacity and resources to participate effectively in the G20 processes and meetings.
- The AU should also leverage its existing partnerships and platforms such as the India-Africa Forum Summit, the Africa-EU Partnership, the Africa-China Forum, etc. to mobilize support for its G20 engagement.
- The AU should align its G20 engagement with its existing frameworks and strategies such as Agenda 2063, Agenda 2030, AfCFTA, etc.

- The AU should also ensure coherence and complementarity between its G20 engagement and its other regional and global engagements such as the AUC, AUDA-NEPAD, UN, EU, Commonwealth, Francophonie, etc.
- The AU should adopt a constructive and pragmatic approach in its G20 engagement, seeking common ground and consensus with other G20 members on various issues. The AU should also be flexible and adaptable to changing circumstances and emerging challenges in the global arena.
- The AU should monitor and evaluate its G20 engagement, measuring its impact and outcomes on Africa's development. The AU should also disseminate and communicate its G20 engagement to its member states and other stakeholders, highlighting its achievements and challenges.

Conclusion

- The inclusion of the AU in G20 is an achievement of India's Presidency and reflects its commitment to the developmental agenda of the **Global South**. It is also a recognition of Africa's importance and potential in the global economy and governance. The AU should seize this historic opportunity to advance its interests and aspirations on the global stage while contributing to the global public good.

Drishti Mains Question

Analyze the role and significance of the G20 as a forum for global governance and development. Discuss the achievements and challenges of India's G20 Presidency in 2022-23, with special reference to its engagement with Africa.

UPSC Civil Services Examination Previous Year's Questions (PYQs)

Prelims:

Q. In which one of the following groups are all four countries members of G20? (2020)

- (a) Argentina, Mexico, South Africa, and Turkey
- (b) Australia, Canada, Malaysia, and New Zealand
- (c) Brazil, Iran, Saudi Arabia, and Vietnam
- (d) Indonesia, Japan, Singapore, and South Korea

Ans: (a)

Mains

Q. If the last few decades were Asia's growth story, the next few are expected to be Africa's. In light of this statement, examine India's influence in Africa in recent years. (2021)

Q. How does India see its place in the economic space of rising natural resource-rich Africa? (2014)