



G20 – Trade and Investment Agenda

Minister Parks Tau

18 March 2025

Table of Contents

Background	03
Global environment	04
Strategic approach	05
SA Theme for the G20	07
Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG)	08
TIWG priorities	09
Expected Outcomes	11
B20	12

G20 - Background

- The G20 is designed to convene a more representative grouping of so-called 'strategic industrialised and developing economies' beyond the G7, in an effort to increase multilateral cooperation for the global economic recovery.
- The G20 is a group of 19 countries, the European Union (EU) and since 2024 the African Union (AU), representing the world's most significant economies.
- Was initially established in response to the Global Financial Crisis but has continued to play a critical role in responding to address broader global challenges, such as the growing debt burden in developing countries.
- Combined, G20 members represent 85% of global GDP, 75% of international trade and two-thirds of the world's population.
- Based on its broad representation of advanced industrial and developing economies, the G20 has an enormous potential to shape global trade and investment relations, and enable sustained and inclusive economic recovery.
- South Africa assumed the G20 Presidency on 01 December 2024, following the Brazilian Leaders' Summit (18-19 November)
- South Africa's Presidency will aim to build on the successes of the three previous presidencies led by the Global South (Indonesia, India and Brazil).

Global Environment

- SA assumes the G20 Presidency at a time of escalating geopolitical tensions, worsening climate-related challenges, fragmenting global supply chains, and growing economic disparities between developed and developing nations.
- Within this global context, many regions and localities, especially Africa are increasingly vulnerable to the adverse distributive impacts of globalisation and trade.
- Rising inequalities and unemployment have exacerbated feeling of exclusion and discontent, making it harder to build consensus around policies that promote global integration.
- In response, many countries have turned to trade-restrictive measures, unilateralism and protectionism
- Industrial policy is back.
- Promoting inclusive trade and investment can help bridge both domestic and global divides, supporting the resilience of developing countries in particular.
- SA's G20 Presidency is 5 years before the deadline for the 2030 SDGs, the forthcoming G20 Presidencies must encourage a paradigm shift and accelerate the implementation of practical solutions.

Strategic approach to the G20 Presidency

- Seek to ensure that the G20 implements its previous commitments towards Africa, including G20 support for industrialisation in Africa and LDCs, agreed during the Hangzhou Summit
- Seek to advance work on the achievement of the Sustainable Development Goals including broad access to the digital economy and increased energy access as well as the promotion of the multilateral trading system.
- Advance working together to harness critical minerals for inclusive growth and sustainable development
- Ensure outcomes promote efficient response to the current global economic, climate and energy crisis, the debt crisis facing African and other developing countries; and to curb illicit financial flows in an effort to accord developing countries a fair opportunity at sustainable development
- SA is working in close partnership with the AU to advance the priorities of the AU's Agenda 2063.

Strategic approach to the G20 Presidency

- Over and above South Africa's G20 Presidency priorities, the country needs to revisit previous G20's commitments with a direct bearing to the development agenda of the global South, particularly of Africa.
- South Africa's leadership of the G20 presents a unique opportunity to shape global policies and advocate for Africa's interests on the world stage.
- Mobilise investment into SA and Africa by linking the President annual Investment Summit to the G20
- Provides a platform to have strategic discussion with G20 Members both bilaterally and multilateral to unlock growth and development in SA - thus leaving a lasting legacy beyond the meetings

SA theme for the G20

Past Presidency themes

- 2021 Italy: **“People, Planet, Prosperity”**
- 2022 Indonesia: **“Recover Together, Recover Stronger”**
- 2023 India : **“One Earth, One Family, One Future”**
- 2024: Brazil: **“Building a Just World and a Sustainable Planet”**

South Africa

SA theme: *“Fostering Solidarity, Equality and Sustainability”*

Recognises

- Lack of global solidarity and the need to foster global solidarity in a number of key areas such as global governance reform, environment and climate finance, trade, health (pandemic treaty), financing for development etc.
- Inequalities persist and builds on discussions under Brazil Presidency and addresses issues key to SA and Africa such as taxation, social protection, social wages, illicit financial flows, domestic resource mobilisation, debt etc.
- The importance of sustainability to foster global cooperation that ensure that we meet the needs of the present without compromising the ability of future generations to meet their own needs.

Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG)

- The **Trade and Investment Working Group (TIWG)** was established in 2016. This working group is part of the government to government engagements under the formal Sherpa Track in the G20.
- The working group meets regularly during each G20 Presidency. The outcomes of the TIWG are considered during a G20 Trade Ministers meeting and feed into the annual G20 Leaders Declaration.
- The TIWG concentrates on issues related to strengthening trade and investment mechanisms of the G20 member-states, promoting growth of global trade, the coordination and cooperation among investment policies and multilateral negotiations.
- TIWG's work is informed by the commitments and instructions on trade and investment from previous Summits, Trade Ministers Meetings (TMMs) and Sherpa Meetings.
- It identifies potential areas of cooperation on trade and investment taking into account the priorities of G20 Presidency.
- It discusses trade and investment issues of common interests raised by G20 members.

Trade and Investment Working Group priorities

- Each G20 Presidency can decide on its own priorities during its presidency.
- SA themes building on the previous 3 developing country Presidencies of the G20 (Indonesia, India and Brazil)
- It is vital that the G20, under South Africa's leadership, prioritises inclusive and sustainable development, structural economic diversification, green industrialisation, and the creation of robust, inclusive supply chains as key themes for its agenda.
- SA's G20 presidency proposes the following four (4) priority issues for discussion under the Trade and Investment Working Group;
 - **Trade and inclusive growth** – this agenda item is aimed at building on previous G20 presidency's Trade for Growth and Prosperity agenda with a view to work towards principles to guide G20 Members to foster inclusive growth and sustainable development. This will include the development of the G20 Africa Cooperation Agenda. An important segment of this theme should address common or shared challenges resulting from distributive effects of trade with adverse outcomes for economically excluded regions within countries. A compact for social inclusion should offer strategies that enable G20 countries to respond to these challenges and build resilience in communities.

Trade and Investment Working Group priorities

- **Responsive trade and investment agenda to address the challenge of global commons**, covering matters of climate change, digital inclusion, preparedness for future pandemics, food security, resilience and diversification of global value-chains to promote sustainable development. This will also include the identification of the trends in the Investment Treaty Regime and a reform toolbox for addressing the global commons, including the energy transition.
 - **G20 framework on green industrialisation and investments** - with a view to ensure progress towards the grand bargain that promotes value addition of critical minerals close to the source and the development of low-carbon manufacturing value chains which can support global decarbonisation and industrial adaptation.
 - **WTO Reform** – deliberation on the development dimension of the WTO, including WTO reform, with the expected outcome being a Statement on the WTO.
- With the above proposed key priorities areas, SA's presidency can strategically assist the G20 in shifting focus from firefighting against successive shocks to a medium-term agenda that supports resilient, sustainable, balanced, and inclusive growth and development.

Expected Outcomes

Trade and inclusive growth Africa Cooperation Agenda

- Mobilise G20 support for the AfCFTA adjustment fund
- G20 principle not to challenge measures implemented by African countries to industrialise
- Trade finance to support women and youth-led enterprises and SME's
- Support Africa's diversification and infrastructure development efforts including decarbonisation of Africa's value chains

G20 principles on trade and inclusivity



Responsive trade and investment agenda to address global commons

- G20 principles to promote global solidarity on global commons – environment, diversification of production of medical products and technology transfer
- Trends in the Investment Treaty Regime and a reform toolbox for addressing the global commons, including the energy transition

G20 framework/pledge on green industrialisation and investments to promote sustainable development

- Framework that promotes inclusive green industrialisation that includes grand bargain that promotes value-addition at source, access to resources and meaningful integration of developing countries in GVCs in the context of green industrialisation.

WTO development dimension and WTO reform

- Ministerial Declaration on WTO reform that promoted development-centred reform agenda
- Set the foundation to define elements of the development dimension that can underpin outcomes for MC14 to be held in Cameroon in 2026.

B20

- The **Business 20 (B20)** is the official G20 dialogue forum with the global business community.
- Established in 2010, the B20 is among the most prominent G20 Engagement Groups. Its working proceedings are based on Task Forces and Action Councils entrusted with key themes that drive the priorities of each B20 edition. The B20 officially conveys its final recommendations to the G20 Presidency at the G20 Summits.

South Africa's Hosting of the B20

- The **Business 20** or **B20** is a parallel private sector track to the G20, serves as the official business dialogue and engagement group of the G20, and is composed of businesses representatives from the G20 countries and from selected invited countries and international organizations. The B20 has the following mission and goal:
 - **Mission:** To serve as a strategic platform for the business community to build consensus and set priorities on policies to address global economic challenges.
 - **Goal:** Represent the interests of the business community in relation to the G20, foster dialogue between private and public sector at G20 level and deliver impactful and differentiated policy recommendations to the G20.
- The B20 operates without a permanent secretariat since its rotating presidency is responsible for its agenda and organization. The B20 forms various task forces and action councils comprising business leaders and experts, and which is enabled through:
 - **B20 Summits and Meetings:** Regular summits and meetings are held where business leaders, policymakers, and experts convene to discuss pressing global economic issues and present their findings to G20 leaders.
 - **Public-Private Dialogues:** Engaging in dialogues with government representatives to ensure that business perspectives are considered in G20 decision-making processes.
 - **Reports and Recommendations:** Producing detailed reports and recommendations that are presented to the G20 leadership for consideration during their summits.

South Africa's Hosting of the B20

- With the handover of the chair for the South Africa hosting the G20, similarly the B20 hosting was transferred to South Africa on 1 December 2024. The BUSA Board has mandated the following persons to lead the hosting:
 - Mr Mxolisi Mgojo - Chair of the B20 for South Africa's hosting
 - Ms Nonkululeko Nyembezi - Deputy-Chair of the B20 South Africa
 - Mr Cas Coovadia – B20 Sherpa.
 - Mr Anthony Costa - B20 Secretariat.
- The B20 Secretariat has been developing the framework for hosting the B20 in 2025, which include planning and implementing the B20 task forces, Summit, and meetings, ensuring in tandem with other business entities seeking to promote South Africa as an attractive investment destination and showcasing the country's business potential and opportunities on a global stage.
- The B20 Secretariat will be hosting the 2025 process guided by the following **B20 theme** adopted:

“INCLUSIVE GROWTH AND PROSPERITY THROUGH GLOBAL COOPERATION”

South Africa's Hosting of the B20

- Building on the work of B20 Brazil, **B20 South Africa** will **develop specific and implementable policy recommendations**, focusing on the work of the G20 and its impact on business.
- The B20 Secretariat has established **8 task forces** with the taskforce chairs appointed as follows:

	Name	Company	Role	Task Force Topic
1.	Ms Busi Mabuza	IDC	Chair	Trade & Investment
2.	Mr Paul Hanratty	Sanlam	CEO	Employment & Education
3.	Mr Daniel Mminele	Nedbank	Chair	Energy Mix & Just Transition
4.	Ms Phuti Mahanyele	Naspers	CEO	Digital Transformation
5.	Mr Sim Tshabalala	Standard Bank	Group CEO	Finance & Infrastructure
6.	Ms Ruwayda Redfearn	Deloitte Africa	CEO	Integrity & Compliance
7.	Ms Debra Mallowah	Bayer	Head of Africa	Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture
8.	Mr Andrew Kirby	Toyota SA	CEO	Industrial Transformation and Innovation

B20 Secretariat Timeline and Activities

2024		2025		Indicative timeline & meetings				
Oct/Nov	Dec	Jan	Feb	March through July	Jul/Aug	Sep/Oct	Nov	Dec
Brazil B20 & G20 Summits Align themes for B20 and finalise Task Force topics	SA assumes the G20 Presidency and Chair of the B20 B20 SA Task Force Chairs appointed	Task Force Chairs appointed Co-Chairs and Task Force membership process begins	Launch Cape Town 24-25 February Inception meetings and start of Task Force work	Development of policy papers by Task Forces Virtual Task Force working meetings	Engagements with G20 Working Groups	Official delivery of Policy Papers/ Communiqué Advocacy of Policy Papers	B20 Summit G20 Summit	SA passes the G20 Presidency to USA
<p>Internal B20 leadership meetings and working sessions</p> <div> <div> 4x8 Task force calls </div> <div> 8 Chairs monthly alignment meetings </div> <div> 7 Advisory Council meetings </div> <div> 6 Caucus meetings </div> </div> <div> <div>Development of policy papers and pre-advocacy events</div> <div> <div>Advocacy meetings and events</div> <div> Bilateral meetings with South African government and other stakeholders Events organised by task forces as advocacy and engagement efforts </div> </div> </div>								

B20 Secretariat Timeline and Activities

- The **B20 Launch** took place in **Cape Town** on 24 and 25 February 2025, with the work of B20 South Africa Task Forces beginning in earnest. Companies were requested to apply for the B20 Task Forces by 15 March 2025.
- The B20 South Africa Summit will be taking place between 18-20 November 2025 in Johannesburg, South Africa.
- **Government will be working with the B20 processes with the following focus:**
 - **Sustained Engagement:**
 - Build on work from the G20 Trade and Investment Working Group.
 - Leverage the B20 architecture and G20/B20 meetings for coordinated discussions.
 - **Public-Private Dialogue:**
 - Facilitate dialogues to ensure business perspectives shape G20 decisions.
 - Translate insights into actionable policy recommendations and reports for G20 leaders.
 - **Task Force Synergies:**
 - Collaborate with B20 Task Forces on key areas like Trade & Investment, Employment & Education, Energy & Just Transition, Digital Transformation, Finance & Infrastructure, Integrity & Compliance, Sustainable Food Systems & Agriculture, and Industrial Transformation & Innovation.

THANK YOU

