NHSMUNC IV
Northwood High School Model UN

G20 Summit

Africa's Development and Issues Affecting the Global South

Head Chair: Jolie Nguyen
Vice Chair: Ajay Cope

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WELCOME LETTER

Hi delegates,

Welcome to the G20 Summit! My name is Jolie and I'm excited to serve as your head chair. As a sophomore, this is my second year in MUN with Northwood.

I believe MUN is a great chance to become more versed in pertinent issues globally while developing your public speaking skills, so I am looking forward to seeing everyone's research come to life through the individual perspectives and goals of your countries. Ajay and I chose this topic given the many subtopics Africa's development encompasses, from inclusive economic growth to food security to sustainable AI development. We're looking forward to seeing what delegates will collaborate on and prioritize upon recognizing how multi-faceted this issue is.

Outside of MUN, I love music – you are all welcome to attend my TED talk on how amazing prog and thrash metal are; my favorite bands include Dream Theater, Opeth and Pantera! I also love discovering new cafés though I usually just stick to Peets for convenience and get my go-to order of the Black Tie.

P.S. If you buy me a tiramisu latte from The Mugs, +1 point for your opening speech.

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Hi delegates!

My name is Ajay and I am also very excited to serve as your vice chair! I am a junior and this is my second year in MUN at Northwood.

As Jolie described, participating in MUN gives students a more diverse perspective on global international political relations. MUN doesn't just dive into international relations through a series of debates and discussions, it also allows you to connect with others to learn and understand their positions as well as helping you develop public speaking skills, a necessary personal trait. I was first introduced to MUN by the head here at Northwood, and once I participated in my first conference, I instantly fell in love and craved to do more. From there, I have participated in many other conferences winning the best delegate, outstanding, and accommodation awards.

Outside of MUN, I am very active. I love participating in tennis. I played on the JV team at Northwood as a freshman and became the JV team captain the next year. However this year I decided not to participate in tennis to focus more on school and community college classes.

We chose this topic as Africa's development is significantly impacted by various issues that also affect the broader Global South, including widespread poverty, high levels of inequality, weak government, the effects of climate change, heavy debt burgers, limited access to quality healthcare and education, and historical legacies of colonialism. As described, this is a very complex issue and we are very excited to view all your position papers and view the resolutions you will come up with to hopefully bring this issue to an end. We wish you the best of luck and look forward to your collaborations and resolutions!

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NHSMUNC IV POLICIES

At NHSMUNC, policies prioritize fairness and delegate engagement through structured evaluation, with chairs utilizing scoresheets to track comments, speeches, and participation throughout the committee. They ensure an equitable distribution of speaking opportunities, balancing the number of comments and interventions made by each country. Holistic grading is employed to evaluate delegates comprehensively, considering factors such as participation, collaboration, adherence to country policy, creativity in proposing in-depth and bloc-oriented solutions, preparation through background knowledge and position papers, and overall diplomacy and professionalism. This approach emphasizes the quality of contributions and encourages delegates to present well-researched, actionable ideas that align with their country's policy while addressing the committee's goals.

POSITION PAPER FORMAT

Position papers are an essential element of committee preparation. The document should not only convey the stance of the character you are representing, but it should also discuss potential solutions to the ideas at hand. The bulk of pre-conference preparation is often done within position paper research. While not required, submission of a position paper may be considered as a demonstration of preparedness, depth of understanding, and commitment to the topic, potentially influencing overall evaluations such as delegate awards or performance recognition.

Papers are graded based on clarity, depth, and creativity in addressing the topic, with strong adherence to formatting and citation guidelines. Emphasis is placed on demonstrating a thorough understanding of the background, presenting nuanced policies, offering original and bloc-aligned solutions, and using high-quality sources effectively.

Requirements:

- Single spaced
- 1 page minimum, 2 page maximum (not including your works cited page)
- Times New Roman font, size 12
- 1-inch borders
- All external sources must be cited in MLA format in the works cited page

To receive feedback on your position paper and be considered for research awards, a PDF copy of your position paper must be submitted to this link by **April 24, 2025 at 11:59pm**.

COMMITTEE LOGISTICS

The year's G20 Summit, hosted in South Africa, focuses on the theme "Solidarity, Equality, Sustainability." G20 comprises two tracks, the Sherpa and Finance Track. In this committee, students will represent world leaders, known in this case as Sherpas as opposed to delegates.

Facilitators/Chairs
G20 differs from normal General Assembly procedure in that it uses a consensus-based approach (CBA) that requires sufficient participation from all Sherpas. Chairs will also adopt the role of a facilitator who actively manages the discussion, taking notes and helping parties brainstorm policies to aid Sherpas in creating a satisfactory outcome for all.

Sherpas/Delegates
Sherpas should refer to themselves in first person and are expected to place an emphasis on consensus (as per the CBA) over self-interest.

Procedure
1. Committee will start with a round robin (interrupted speakers list) in which all Sherpas give a 2-minute statement of interest.
2. Based on the interests outlined by Sherpas, facilitators will proceed by proposing a draft agenda that splits up the overarching topic into subtopics.
3. Sherpas will debate on this draft agenda before deciding on the final agenda to be discussed, which can be continually revised as debate proceeds.
4. Next is the "Brainstorming Phase," during which Sherpas will form their own blocs based on the interests of each. Sherpas will send in bundled ideas and proposals (in resolution form) to facilitators by the end of this phase.
5. All resolutions are added to one shared Google document to begin the "Negotiation Phase." After a 5-minute reading period, Sherpas will rate the outlined proposals on a scale from 1-6.
    1. Wholeheartedly agree
    2. Good idea
    3. Supportive
    4. Reservations – would like to talk
    5. Serious concerns – must talk
    6. Cannot be part of the decision – must block it
6. If any Sherpas have a rating from 4-6, debate will proceed with speeches for, against or amending the resolution to find a consensus for all.
7. The idea is for the resolution to be amended enough to reach consensus. If consensus is not reached, an overwhelming majority will suffice.
8. After the agreement is reached, Sherpas will digitally sign the document to confirm their public support of its outlined policies.

For the purposes of maintaining delegates' fairness of research, this committee will take place as of March 12th, 2025. In this world, South Korea's President Yoon Suk Yeol has not been impeached and remains president.

BACKGROUND INFORMATION

In 1884, European powers partook in the "Scramble for Africa:" the divvying up of African land for colonial usage as a part of the Berlin Conference and resulting in the arbitrary creation of 53 states that disregarded the existing location of diverse African ethnic groups. As best summed up by Richard Dowden, the Executive Director of the Royal African Society in London, "the colonial impact was… short enough to destroy leadership in Africa… but not long enough to replace it with anything else," contributing to an Africa today whose previous political and cultural systems have been eradicated only to be replaced with corruption. In 2025, G20 is expected to hold a summit on this very topic with specific focuses on inclusive economic growth, food security and sustainable AI development. In proceeding with these sub-topics, it is crucial for Sherpas to recognize the ethnic and political diversity of the African continent and the subsequent multitude of solutions that will arise out of each country's unique context.

Economic Growth and Food Security

Africa's GDP growth is projected to accelerate to 4.1% in 2025 with East Africa leading the continent at 5.7%. Growth can be attributed to numerous economic reforms, including the implementation of the African Continental Free Trade Area (AfCFTA) to boost intra-Africa trade and increased support for small and medium-sized enterprises (SMEs) through expanded credit access and risk-management tools. Infrastructure investment in roads, railways, and ports has also improved inter-regional trading and streamlined custom processes. Rwanda and Uganda have made efforts to diversify economically, reducing their agricultural reliance for technology and tourism sectors. Despite these successes, food security remains a key issue, stemming from climate change and resource tensions, including Ethiopia and Sudan's century-long border dispute over al-Fashaga, which risks spreading to the horn of Africa. In 2020, Ethiopian Prime Minister Abiy Ahmed held up negotiations over the filling of a mega-dam, which was being built along the Ethiopian-Sudanese border, which Sudanese officials claimed could "imperil drinking and irrigation water for half of Sudan's population." This conflict reflects the broader need for food and water security across East Africa and the importance of G20's role in fostering inter-regional diplomacy.

On the other hand, Northern and Southern Africa are expected to grow at slower rates as a result of structural challenges. North Africa undergoes the fiscal constraints of high debt levels (with Egypt's debt-to-GDP ratio exceeding 90%) and fiscally unsustainable subsidies being allocated towards bread, fuel and electricity. Additionally, Egypt, Algeria and Libya have economies dominated by the military that crowds out private sector growth. Where Egypt's military is deeply ingrained throughout its different economic sectors (including construction, consumer goods and infrastructure projects), Algeria's rentier economy (one in which income is earned through owning assets as opposed to providing goods and services) allows for military elites to receive preferential treatment regarding real estate ventures and bureaucratic policies, causing them to be further entrenched in the government and economy. Libya is a special case, given armed groups and militias' exploitation of oil infrastructure and smuggling routes. This exacerbates Libya's economic stability due to its heavy reliance on the oil sector (which accounts for 90% of government revenues and exports) and creates a spillover effect for surrounding Northern African nations by allowing weapons to be smuggled into Tunisia, Algeria, Chad, and Niger. The political contexts of Egypt, Algeria and Libya exemplify a key hurdle in North Africa's economic development: the corruption that deters foreign direct investment (FDI), as it raises uncertainty and transaction costs for hesitant investors. A lack of investment acts as a destabilizing loop of persistent poverty, failing to address the root cause of systemic political corruption. Food insecurity in this region stems undeniably from this perverse poverty, but also a multitude of factors. First is an inability to implement modern agricultural techniques, such as irrigation systems and climate-resilient seeds, limiting agricultural efficiency and subsequent output. Rising temperatures have also reduced crop yields for wheat, barley, and vegetables, forcing North African countries to shakily rely on imports for food security; Egypt's dependence on wheat has been particularly hurt by the ongoing Russo-Ukraine war.

In Southern Africa, the prevalence of state-owned enterprises limits economic productivity. South Africa's electricity company Eskom and transportation company Transnet are key examples of how political corruption crushes economic output, causing frequent blackouts and logistical bottlenecks that interfere with business' capacity for development. Political corruption is also prevalent through South Africa's Jacob Zuma administration, known for its prioritization of private interests through state capture. With the emergence of authoritarian governments across Southern Africa comes diminished accountability, which once again discourages foreign investment and acts as an amplifying feedback loop for continued poor economic output.

Western African economies are heavily reliant on agriculture with over 60% of its labor force confined to this sector. They are thus more vulnerable to climate change, as unpredictable weather patterns and insufficient crop yields significantly harm their economies. However, existing organizations with West Africa demonstrate a commitment to political stability, trade liberalization and monetary cooperation, however lacking this commitment may be in practice. This is demonstrated through the establishment of the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) in 1975. Although ECOWAS established a free trade area among its member states in 1990, the inter-regional trade remains low at 11% due to infrastructure deficits. Additionally, the West African Economic and Monetary Union (WAEMU) works to stabilize inflation by adopting the CFA franc as a region-wide currency. It is thanks to organizations like WAEMU that East Africa is more susceptible to currency inflation than its Western counterpart.

Sustainable AI Development

By 2035, AI development is projected to double African nations' GDP growth rate, making it a desirable endeavor economically and socially. In a continent with perverse food insecurity, AI promises to optimize agricultural crop yields and supply chains by adopting precision agriculture to analyze weather patterns and soil conditions and smart irrigation to conserve water where needed. Unlike other African sectors, sustainable AI development has seen more foreign investment; initiated by the Italian G7 Presidency and United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), the AI Hub for Sustainable Development is set to launch this year as a part of Italy's Mattei plan for Africa. It focuses on several key objectives, the first of which being strengthening local AI ecosystems. This involves ensuring datasets reflect Africa's ethnic, linguistic and socioeconomic diversity, as well as employing training programs to equip individuals with the necessary skills in machine learning, data science, and automation; in Ghana, 3,000 AI trainers were certified through the AiAfrica project. The second key objective involves sectoral impact: employing AI as a means of economic diversification and development in predominantly agriculture and education. The African agriculture sector faces significant hurdles posed by climate change, which AI technology such as Africa Agriculture Watch (AAgWa) promises to alleviate through employing satellite data to predict heat intensity, rainfall levels and soil intensity. However, in rural areas in which agriculture is most predominant, businesses and individuals lack access to the necessary infrastructure and technical skills to integrate AI into agricultural practices, demonstrating the need for AI development to emphasize accessibility in order to affect economic growth. Furthermore, the AI Hub for Sustainable Development is focused on fostering economic collaboration between nine African nations – Algeria, Egypt, Ethiopia, Kenya, Ivory Coast, Morocco, Mozambique, Republic of Congo, and Tunisia – with support from major tech companies such as Microsoft, Google, and Amazon Web Services. In Ghana, South Africa and Uganda, universities have partnered with private entities to foster research opportunities into the social impacts of AI development, paving the way for the development of startups such as Nigeria's Intron Health and Ethiopia's iCog Labs.

Political Stability

The legacy of colonialism in Africa necessitates a revised political model, tailored to each nation's individual needs and demographics. While G20 does not have the political power to directly propose a political model for a country, it is able to support initiatives that align with such a model, including providing technical assistance and funding to reform judicial and law enforcement institutions with an increasing emphasis on a non-Western democratic model that takes into account Africa's ethnic and linguistic pluralism. An example is the rotation of ethnic and religious leaders in Nigeria where presidents are rotated among six geopolitical regions (North West, North Central, North East, South West, South South, and South East) to ensure accurate ideological representation by balancing the leadership of Christian and Muslim leaders.

Scholars have also argued for an emphasis on local governance and decentralization, incorporating the African tradition of consensus building to override the inefficacy of the West's multiparty system, which is based heavily on political competition. Experts advise that such a system nonetheless includes Western practices of checks and balances and having power be derived from the people. This would in turn alleviate the strain of an economic system that deters investment due to political instability, promoting an inclusive and prosperous economy.

PAST G20 INVOLVEMENT

What is the history of the G20's relationship with Africa?

Created in 1999 as a forum to manage the global financial and economic system, the G20 initially brought together the finance ministers of the world's 20 leading industrialized and emerging economies to promote financial stability. Since then, the G20 has been elevated to heads-of-state summit level and its scope has broadened beyond economic issues. Topic areas relevant to the African continent, such as food security, infrastructure, health, and migration, have regularly been placed on the G20 agenda, ensuring at least a partial representation of African interests at the forum. However, the G20 has not systematically engaged with Africa, with African voices largely absent from the gatherings.

Africa featured on the agenda in 2010 when the G20 created a permanent Development Working Group and adopted the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth, a framework for economic growth based on private-sector development and equal partnerships between low-income countries and donors. G20 interest in Africa increased in 2014 when the Ebola epidemic swept through West Africa. The G20 vowed "to build capacity to prevent, detect, report early and rapidly respond to infectious diseases like Ebola." Other initiatives, such as the 2016 commitment to support industrialization in Africa, indicate increasing interest in the region.

The G20 has been involved in Africa through initiatives focused on development financing, tackling climate change impacts on the continent, promoting economic growth, and most recently, including the African Union (AU) as a full member. This gives Africa a direct voice in global economic discussions and policy decisions. With South Africa currently holding the G20 presidency, this further emphasizes African concerns. The G20 has prioritized supporting African countries in their development efforts, including initiatives to address issues like poverty, healthcare, and education. Recognizing the disproportionate impact of climate change on Africa, the G20 has focused on providing funding and support for climate adaptation and mitigation projects in the continent. The G20 has also discussed ways to alleviate burdens for African nations and improve access to development finance. Including the AU as a full member in the G20 gives Africa a platform to advocate for its priorities on a global stage. Currently, South Africa holds the G20 presidency, allowing them to further highlight African concerns and issues within the group. Some examples of past G20 engagement with Africa include an initiative aimed at promoting private sector investment in African countries by improving business environments, focused on fostering industrial development in African nations, the G20 has partnered with the AfDB to channel funding towards AAfrican projects, and G20 meetings have included discussions on how to improve the global financial system to better support African economies.

Despite the growing attention to African issues at the G20, insufficient steps have been taken to integrate African viewpoints within the forum. South Africa is the only African country with a permanent seat at the table, and it can hardly speak for the entire continent. To include more African perspectives, observer status was granted to the chair of the African Union (AU) and a representative of the AU's Heads of State and Government Coordination Committee of the New Economic Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD) in 2010. However, their attendance is limited to the actual summits and does not extend to the preparatory meetings and working groups, where most of the substantive work is carried out.

What did the G20 offer Africa in 2017?

Chancellor Angela Merkel of Germany made economic development in Africa one of the priority themes of the summit and succeeded in generating momentum on the issue during the run-up to the Hamburg gathering. At the core of the G20 Partnership with Africa lies the Compact with Africa (CWA) initiative, which focuses on attracting more private investment to Africa, especially for infrastructure projects. The rationale is that more investment will stimulate job creation and economic growth. Under the CWA, African countries that take steps to improve the business environment in their countries are provided with technical and financial assistance.

The push for a new economic policy in Africa has been given extra momentum by the G20's increasing strategic and security interests in Africa. The idea that engagement in Africa is driven by little more than altruism has given way to a more hard-headed approach as security and diplomatic stakes in the continent have risen. By openly framing the CWA as part of an initiative to relieve the flow of refugees into Europe, German politicians seem to have realized that improving living conditions for Africans in their home countries is not merely a value-driven exercise but also serves Europe's geostrategic interests. Other G20 members with important stakes in Africa—including China, Turkey, and India—benefit from this shift in emphasis. None of these countries pursue a values-driven foreign policy, predominantly viewing Africa as a business opportunity. The CWA's focus on improving investment climates could ultimately benefit strategies such as China's Belt and Road Initiative.

The CWA has received mixed reviews from African and non-African stakeholders alike. While President Jacob Zuma of South Africa believed that the CWA would serve his country's national interest, the AU representative, President Alpha Condé of Guinea, made it clear that African countries "do not want to be beggars opening [their] hands and asking for money." Another complaint was that the compact is light on detail; for example, it does not explain how countries are supposed to attract private investments, especially the least developed and most poorly governed. Some have criticized the CWA's focus on large physical infrastructure over investments in human capital through education.

While the content of the proposed partnership has sparked mixed reactions, its format sets the stage for continuous cooperation between the G20 states and African countries. By proposing conditional, bilateral partnerships, the CWA offers a framework for holding African governments to their promises and incentivizing reforms, thereby laying the groundwork for institutionalized, sustained partnerships between G20 countries and their partners in Africa.

The German government deserves credit for embracing African input in the drafting process of the compact. The CWA was authored by Finance Minister Wolfgang Schäuble of Germany, in cooperation with the African Development Bank, the World Bank, and the International Monetary Fund. Before officially launching the G20 Africa Partnership, Germany hosted a G20 conference on Africa in June. The seven countries the German government agreed to compact with—Côte d'Ivoire, Ethiopia, Ghana, Morocco, Rwanda, Senegal, and Tunisia—were present at the conference, as were regional organizations and potential investors. By inviting a broad range of stakeholders, the German hosts created a forum to discuss prospects for and obstacles to investment and employment on the continent in a "spirit of partnership," as Chancellor Merkel stressed.

Where does the United States stand in the process?

The Trump administration's withdrawal from the Paris Climate Accord overshadowed the G20 discussions and relegated the Partnership with Africa to a spot lower down the agenda. Furthermore, there is no evidence to suggest that President Trump has a personal interest in Africa. During a working session on Africa, the president left the meeting to continue one-on-one discussions, leaving his daughter, Ivanka, to represent him during the G20 high-level "Partnership with Africa, Migration and Health" session. In the only Africa-related announcement of note by the United States, President Trump declared that the United States would give $638 million in aid to relieve the humanitarian crisis in three African states—Nigeria, Somalia, South Sudan—and Yemen. While the UN World Food Program called the money a "life-saving gift," the Washington-based Christian organization Bread for the World claimed that the aid had been approved by Congress several months previously and its release had been delayed by the administration.

Despite these unpromising signs, there may be aspects of the CWA approach that appeal to an administration that seems to favor bilateral, transactional exchanges over multilateral approaches. Furthermore, the CWA places the onus on African nations to undergo reforms in return for partnership, an emphasis that might resonate with a president who has expressed skepticism about the value of foreign assistance to the United States.

Overview of G20's engagement with Africa over a decade: 2009–2019

Africa has been one focus of the G20's efforts since the G8–G20 transition in 2009, premised on the gradual cognizance of Africa's importance to several economies and the incorporation of a developmental agenda alongside the G20's core agenda, which was at that time macroeconomic stability and financial regulation. Beginning with the G20 Pittsburgh Summit in September 2009, the G20 Framework for Strong, Sustainable, and Balanced Growth focused on (1) consensus on shared policy objectives, (2) assessing the collective implications of national policy frameworks and (3) agreeing on actions to meet common objectives. The G20's focus on development was formalized in the creation of the Development Working Group (DWG) at the June 2010 Toronto Summit, drawing on the G20 leaders' commitment to 'narrow the development gap and reduce poverty' as part of the group's 'broader objective of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth and ensuring a more robust and resilient global economy for all'. The 2010 Toronto Summit also marked the first time that the AU attended the G20 summit, building up to the adoption of the Seoul Development Consensus for Shared Growth which consists of a multi-year action plan to add value to and complement the G20's development-focused commitments. The Seoul Development Consensus pinpointed nine areas for policy coordination and action: infrastructure, private investment and job creation, human resource development, trade, financial inclusion, resilient growth, food security, domestic resource mobilization, and knowledge sharing. Notably, at the Seoul Summit, G20 leaders agreed to include two African countries among the five non-member invitees to G20 summits. Following the Seoul Development Consensus, the 2011 Summit in Cannes emphasized the Action Plan on Price Volatility and Agriculture and its support for the Economic Community of West African States (ECOWAS) food security initiative, NEPAD's initiative to integrate risk management in agricultural policies, and the commissioning of a G20 high-level panel to facilitate increased investment for infrastructure development projects in Africa.

The 2012 Los Cabos Summit Declaration did not include new Africa-focused commitments but referred to the 2011 Action Plan on Price Volatility and Agriculture while taking note of the food insecurity crisis in the Sahel and the Horn of Africa. At the 2013 St Petersburg Summit, the Russian presidency continued with the prioritization of food security on nutrition and streamlined the G20's purview of development into thematic issues. These were food security; infrastructure; financial inclusion and human resource development; inclusive green growth; and domestic resource mobilization. The St Petersburg Summit also saw the completion of the Assessment of Project Preparation Facilities (PPFs) for Infrastructure in Africa, which paved the way for the Africa50 Fund, launched in November 2008 by the African Development Bank (AfDB) to leverage increased pooling of capital from public and private sources for infrastructure development in Africa. The 2014 Brisbane Summit continued with the development priorities as articulated under the Russian presidency. Those relevant to Africa were, namely, infrastructure development, food security, domestic resource mobilization, financial inclusion, and tax evasion.

The 2015 Antalya Summit marked the first-ever meeting of the G20 members' energy ministers and the adoption of the documents entitled G20 Energy Access Action: Voluntary Collaboration on Energy Access, as well as the G20 Toolkit of Voluntary Options on Renewable Energy Development and the G20 Energy Access Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa.

The 2016 G20 Hangzhou Summit presented increased engagement with Africa, launching the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialisation in

Africa and Least Developed Countries and endorsing the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development and the Addis Ababa Action Agenda on Financing for Development. According to van Staden and Sidiropoulos, the elevation of Africa on the G20 agenda during China's presidency has to be viewed alongside China's burgeoning geostrategic agenda in Africa, through initiatives such as the Forum on China–Africa Cooperation (FOCAC) and the Belt and Road Initiative. This complementary approach was reflected in the 2018 Beijing Action Plan (2019–2021) from FOCAC, which outlined eight major initiatives to foster China–African cooperation. Consequently, the focus on cooperation with Africa under China's G20 presidency was on industrialization, broadly underpinned by the alignment of African development priorities to the group's strategic approach to sustainable development and also the incorporation of references to extant African development blueprints. In this vein, van Staden and Sidiropoulos assert that 'the Industrialization Initiative offered the most comprehensive G20 vision of African development yet and opened the door to more intensive cooperation between the body and the continent'.

The focus on partnership with Africa was carried over into the 2017 G20 presidency under Germany, arguably influenced by a tumultuous global political and economic landscape characterized by a looming trade war between the world's largest trade powers, waves of isolationist and populist movements across several countries and a migrant crisis across the Mediterranean Sea, resulting in an influx of asylum seekers and refugees into Europe. In this context, the German presidency of the G20 put forward a reinvigorated African focus leading to the adoption of the G20 Africa Partnership which was made up of several initiatives such as the G20 Initiative for Rural Youth Employment, #eSkills4Girls, the Women Entrepreneurs Finance Initiative and continued implementation of the Energy Access Action Plan for Sub-Saharan Africa. Notably, for the first time in the history of the G20, Africa-specific initiatives were included in the Finance Track, specifically the Compact with Africa (CwA) which is aimed at promoting private investment and conducive business environments through investment compacts with interested African countries. At the core of the CwA is a focus on improving the macroeconomic, business, and financing frameworks for private investment through cooperation between international organizations, the G20, and a range of stakeholders to support member countries in line with their national priority areas and reform measures for the implementation of country-specific compacts. The CwA is characterized as demand-driven and premised on an African-owned reform agenda, with major benefits for private sector investments and intensive technical assistance from development partners and international organizations. For all the flare around its novelty, the CwA has been criticized for its unsuitability for low-income African countries of its neoliberal underpinnings, its blindness to the primacy of educational and vocational programs propping up investment projects, and its tendency to ignore investment-linked risks to the environment and livelihoods.

The 2018 G20 summit under Argentina's presidency did not reinvent the wheel concerning the Partnership with Africa, opting to build on the Africa-specific initiatives spearheaded by the Chinese and German presidencies. The priorities of the future of work, infrastructure for development, and a sustainable food future resonated with Argentina's intention to utilize its presidency as a conduit for Latin America and the Caribbean and Global South perspectives in the G20. In the course of its presidency, the outreach strategy employed by Argentine Sherpa Pedro Villagra Delgado (particularly his visits to Addis Ababa and Johannesburg) resulted in consultations with a broad range of stakeholders including think tanks, civil society groups, business representatives, African government representatives, and AU officials on incorporating African voices in the G20 Partnership with Africa. Argentina's commitment to deepening G20 engagement with Africa was also evident in the invitation to Rwanda, as the AU Chair, and Senegal, representing NEPAD, to critical meetings in the lead-up to the summit.

The 2019 summit in Osaka focused on the priorities set out by Japan's presidency, namely, infrastructure development, fiscal sustainability, and investment in human capital underpinned by people-centered development and adequate policy responses to aging populations. These issues are equally important for Africa, in addition to the focus on universal health care policies, women's development, and skills development in a digital age. There were also initiatives to bridge the infrastructure financing gap by promoting infrastructure investments and the imperative of an effective and robust global governance architecture to address global challenges. Japan's G20 presidency also coincided with the 7th Tokyo International Conference on African Development, or TICAD7 held in Yokohama in August 2019. Co-organized by the African Union Commission, the World Bank, and the United Nations Development Programme (UNDP), TICAD provides a platform for the facilitation and promotion of high-level policy dialogue between African leaders and Africa's development partners in Japan on issues about economic growth, trade and investment, sustainable development, human security, peace and stability and government.

BLOC POSITIONS

Western Europe - Economic Growth

Western European nations within the G20 move towards supporting sustainable and inclusive economic growth with an emphasis on green transitions, digital innovation, and social equity. They emphasize balancing economic development with environmental sustainability, pushing for policies that are consistent with climate goals and long-term resilience.

Perspective on AI

Western Europe considers artificial intelligence a strong disruptive force needing comprehensive regulatory frameworks to provide for ethical application, transparency, and accountability. Governments in the region prioritize the protection of privacy, minimizing bias, and promoting innovation by democratic principles and human rights.

Political stability

Democratic governance, the rule of law, and human rights are the pillars of political stability upheld by Western Europe. Within the G20 framework, these countries promote international collaboration in strengthening institutions, opposing authoritarianism, and reducing social inequality to ensure political cohesiveness.

Food security

The countries of Western Europe tackle food security in a way that prioritizes sustainability, fair trade, and climate change resilience. They advocate for worldwide initiatives to reduce food waste, foster sustainable agriculture, and ensure fair access to nutritious food, particularly in vulnerable regions.

US - Economic growth

The United States within the G20 is centered on market-based economic growth, innovation, and international trade as the sources of prosperity. It promotes policies that stimulate entrepreneurship, digitalization, and economic resilience with a symmetry between competitiveness and sustainability.

AI Development

The United States is at the forefront of AI development as a priority area for economic and technological leadership. It encourages innovation development through public-private partnerships while fostering responsible AI governance that balances ethical issues with maintaining competitiveness.

Political stability

The U.S. encourages democratic principles, the rule of law, and human rights as essential pillars of political stability. It favors international collaboration that aims to reinforce democratic institutions, combat authoritarianism, and resolve global security issues.

Food security

America prioritizes the enhancement of agricultural productivity through the harnessing of technological advancements and optimization of global supply chains to promote food security. It encourages collaborative international endeavors to curb hunger, reverse climate change, and provide fair access to food resources.

Latin America - Economic Growth

Latin American G20 member countries stress the importance of inclusive economic growth, with particular attention to inequality reduction, regional integration, and sustainable development. They support equitable trade, infrastructure investment, and economic diversification to lower dependence on commodity exports.

AI Development

Latin American countries view artificial intelligence as a tool for economic development and social inclusion, highlighting the need to close the digital gap while enhancing education, public services, and other industries. The countries in this region promote joint efforts to develop ethical guidelines for artificial intelligence that ensure equitable access to technological resources.

Political Stability

Latin American countries emphasize the need to consolidate democratic institutions, fight corruption, and reduce social inequalities in an attempt to achieve political stability. They promote dialogue, cooperation, and respect for sovereignty as essential approaches to addressing regional and global challenges.

Food Security

Latin American nations give importance to assisting smallholder farmers, enhancing sustainable agriculture, and making food distribution systems more efficient. They encourage global collaboration to enhance climate resilience, minimize food losses, and provide universal access to nutritious food.

Eastern Asia - Economic Growth

The G20 Eastern Asian countries prioritize high-speed economic growth via technology innovation, trade liberalization, and infrastructure construction. They endorse strengthening global value chains, building digital economies, and pursuing sustainable growth modes for long-term economic resilience.

AI Development

East Asia views AI as a pillar of future economic growth, investing extensively in research, development, and commercialization. Countries in the region prioritize reconciling innovation with ethics, and promoting global collaboration on standards while AI is developed to boost productivity and competitiveness.

Political Stability

The countries in Eastern Asia prioritize the preservation of regional stability by diplomatic communication, economic collaboration, and adherence to national sovereignty. They advocate for multilateral talks and peaceful resolution of conflicts to establish stable conditions that promote development and prosperity.

Food Security

Eastern Asia emphasizes the importance of enhancing agricultural productivity, developing strong food supply chains, and adopting technology-driven solutions. The region encourages international collaboration to combat climate change, ensure sustainable practices, and provide access to healthy food for its growing populations.

QUESTIONS TO CONSIDER

Economic Growth

How can the economic growth of East Africa be replicated across the continent? What is unique about this region?

What sectors are different regions of Africa reliant on? What sectors need to be invested in to foster economic diversification?

How can G20 foster foreign direct investment (FDI) in Africa?

What role does political corruption play in economic growth?

How can G20 foster economic diversification for economies that are heavily dependent on agriculture?

Food Insecurity

How is food security linked to economic growth?

How does the Ethiopia-Sudan dispute threaten food insecurity?

What are the impacts of climate change on African communities?

Sustainable AI Development

How can African nations collaborate on AI initiatives to ensure accessibility and inclusive development?

How can AI be used to fuel economic growth in Africa? What sectors can it contribute most greatly to?

Political Stability

How do socioeconomic contexts and histories differ between West or East Africa, Northern or Southern Africa and how does this contribute to the desired political model?

How does political stability link to economic growth?

What limits does G20 face in correcting political corruption in Africa?

What factors lead to different forms of corruption across different African regions?

WORKS CITED AND SUGGESTED RESOURCES

This should be written with proper MLA formatting. Annotations are not necessary but it may be helpful to include comments next to particularly important sources that you expect all delegates to have familiarity with.

Keep the font and line spacing; DO NOT make this formatted into two columns.

Economic Growth

"Africa's $3.4 Trillion Opportunity: Turning Vulnerabilities into Resilience." UN Trade and Development (UNCTAD), 10 Feb. 2025, unctad.org/news/africas-34-trillion-opportunity-turning-vulnerabilities-resilience.

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This source goes into excellent detail about how Western democratic models have failed in Africa due to their colonial past! Also a great read for anyone interested in going into international relations.

The Effect of Corruption on Foreign Direct Investment in West African Sub-Region.

G20 Past Involvement

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Mabera, Faith. “Africa and the G20: A Relational View of African Agency in Global Governance.” South African Journal of International Affairs, vol. 26, no. 4, 2 Oct. 2019, pp. 583–599, https://doi.org/10.1080/10220461.2019.1702091. Accessed 22 Feb. 2020.