

CONCEPT NOTE

Task Force 4: Solidarity for the Achievement of the SDGs

The SDGs are five years from the 2030 deadline for their achievement, yet only 17% are on track and 35% are stagnating or regressing. The most recent G20 presidencies of India and Brazil have focused on ways to implement the [G20 Action Plan on Accelerating Progress on the SDGs](#) and on scaling up finance, including through development cooperation, multilateral development banks and the private sector.

[The Pact for the Future](#) committed to bold, ambitious, accelerated, just and transformative actions to implement the 2030 Agenda, including mobilising adequate resources from all sources to achieve the SDGs.

The upcoming fourth International Conference on Financing for Development (FfD4) is also an important milestone to assess the progress made in the implementation of the previous financing conferences, include the Addis Ababa Action Agenda (2015), and to encourage reform of the international financial architecture and highlight the pressing need to expedite the implementation of the 2030 Agenda and the SDGs. South Africa has emphasised that a paradigm shift is necessary for the G20 countries to situate inequalities at the centre of economic policymaking because of the significant risks to global economic growth, development and stability.

In line with the theme of the South African presidency, ending poverty and hunger (SDGs 1 & 2), reducing inequalities (SDG 10) and including gender inequality (SDG 5), are key elements for the achievement of the SDGs. Considering carefully what mechanisms and approaches are required to speed up implementation of commitments made by the G20 on the SDGs is key to this task force's mandate.

This task force will contribute policy ideas on:

1. Accelerating SDG Enablers and Reducing Negative Spillovers

While the tracking of SDG progress follows the 17 goals and 247 indicators, the UN and other bodies have recognised the importance of SDG ‘enablers’ in achieving them. Focusing on enablers facilitates a more integrated systemic approach to advancing the 2030 agenda, rather than only concentrating on individual SDGs in isolation. Enablers include among others, technology, digitisation, energy transition, and decent work and social protection.

The implementation of SDGs also creates positive and negative spillovers. In the case of negative spillovers, these can impact on other countries’ ability to achieve the SDGs. Such spillovers can be trade- or finance-related, environmental or social.

- What critical enablers should the G20 focus on? How can SDG enablers be scaled up and what mechanisms can the G20 propose for an integrated approach to help accelerate the achievement of the SDGs?
- How can negative international spillovers be contained and reduced?

2. Reducing Inequalities

The G20 has already called for socially just, environmentally sustainable, and economically sound measures to overcome inequality. A number of the SDGs target inequalities specifically and aim to produce more cohesive and integrated societies that are conducive to growth (including SDG 5 on gender and SDG 16 on peace, justice and strong institutions). The G20 Rio summit noted the growth disparities between and within countries and how ongoing war and conflict continue to undermine the achievement of SDG 10. Reducing and eradicating hunger, poverty, and gender inequality will require implementing country-led, country-owned, large-scale, and evidence-based programs, as agreed in India and reaffirmed in Brazil. The G20 has previously agreed that the accelerated use of cash

transfers, school feeding programs, improved access to microfinance and the formal financial system, and social protection would help to improve the quality of lives.

- What economic, fiscal and social policies are necessary to promote equality and what progress are G20 countries making in that regard?
- What policy interventions are necessary to support the care economy, an important factor in addressing gender inequality?
- Is development assistance and investment in least developed countries assisting in res for the fight against poverty, hunger, and inequalities? What would be needed further?
- What features of the international system heighten inequalities between and within countries and what measures can be taken to ameliorate them?

3. Food Security through Sustainable Food Systems

South Africa has committed to taking forward the outcomes of the Brazilian G20 presidency's focus on hunger and poverty, including further support for the [Global Alliance against Hunger and Poverty](#). Furthermore, the South African G20 presidency has prioritised food security through the establishment of a Food Security Task Force. There is consensus in the G20 about the progressive realisation of the right to adequate food by facilitating humanitarian assistance to vulnerable nations and populations, strengthening food safety nets and enhancing the availability of nutritious food; stronger cooperation for climate-resilient agriculture and food chains; scaling up public and private investment in agriculture; and accelerating innovation and the use of digital technologies that support the transformation of agriculture and food systems.

These and other principles are contained in the Deccan High-Level Principles agreed in India and affirmed in Brazil. By 2030, one of the targets of the SDGs is to guarantee sustainable

food production systems and adopt resilient agricultural practices that boost output and productivity, support ecosystem maintenance, enhance the ability to adapt to climate change and other disasters, and gradually enhance the quality of land and soil. To ensure that everyone, especially children, have access to enough wholesome food throughout the year, promoting sustainable agriculture, helping small-scale farmers, and ensuring equitable access to markets, land and technology are all part of this. International collaboration is also necessary to guarantee that infrastructure and technology investments are made to increase agricultural productivity, in line with SDG 17 on partnerships. In the face of environmental deterioration and climate change, a transformed and resilient agriculture is a crucial battleground in the fight against poverty.

- How far is the implementation of the [Deccan High-Level Principles](#) for transforming agriculture and food systems and promoting sustainable agriculture?
- What support for small-scale farmers is required to enhance food security based on food sovereignty and sustainability principles?
- How can the participation of poorer countries in global food value chains be enhanced? How are actions to be accounted for?
- What factors at the international level can enable greater food security including affordability and access?