

# 'Troika' as Effective Mode of Continuity and Inspiration in G20

G20 has been practising 'troika' - a combination of three members - the immediate past presidency, the current presidency and the upcoming presidency which helps maintain continuity of the process and perhaps inspiring the upcoming presidency in terms of preparedness. This is a novel approach as learning from the past could provide useful insights for replication and course correction in the upcoming presidency if anything found inefficient in the process. Beginning with the Indonesian presidency in 2022, the four consecutive presidencies, e.g. Indonesia, India, Brazil and South Africa, are emerging markets (developing countries). Although developing country members of G20 like Mexico, Argentina and Turkey have led the G20 process in the past, the consecutive presidency could probably maintain a healthy continuum of debates and negotiations on the G20 platform on important issues of post-COVID recovery and developmental challenges faced by the developing countries including LDCs. In fact, the three upcoming presidencies -India, Brazil and South Africa - are birds of the same feather even though their global aspirations and national economic policies are not homogenous in its entirety. The three countries are already working together in BRICS and IBSA for cooperation on several fronts. At this crucial juncture, the 'troika' could work in real sense toward resolving a number of global economic challenges such as rising food and energy prices, nutritional insecurity, high sovereign debt, involuntary unemployment, distressed migration, drying up of private investment in productive sectors, etc.

While numerous issues could be taken up in the 'troika' process and in the agenda of the upcoming presidencies, this issue of *G20 Digest* brings perspectives and opinion on certain topics of interest to the G20; from developing countries in particular. Given the massive economic loss during Covid-19 and successive geo-political tension across countries in the world, the onus rests on reviving multilateral cooperation in its true spirit. The paper on multilateralism captures the nuances in the geo-political environment and its implications for the efficacy of negotiations at the G20 platform. Many countries are grappling with food security and nutritional challenges which has worsened during the pandemic. There is perhaps a need to look at quality of food than ensuing adequate food alone. Food systems approach is being viewed as an integral approach to mitigate the food problems in countries. The paper argues for a food and nutrition security framework in G20 as a roadmap for the developing countries.

Agriculture sector worldwide is undergoing transformation in view of new digital technologies. Digital transformation along with sustainability could yield productivity gains, bridge information asymmetry and help the small and marginal farmers. Weather mapping, precision agriculture, start-up innovations, etc. are promising areas of transformation in agriculture. The paper on digital transformation of agri-food systems covers some of those aspects in greater detail. Fourth Industrial Revolution (4IR) is believed to be the driver of next economic transformation. The paper on 4IR discusses the roadmap for developing countries to make this transition smooth and favourable.

Last but not the least, infrastructure is the lifeline for many developing countries in the world. As required, a lot of attention has gone to infrastructure in the G20 process, which is good mostly from the perspective of mobilising investments and unlocking innovative sources of funding. The role of private and institutional investors has been emphasized during various presidencies of G20 in the recent years. Besides funding issues, robust planning and execution of infrastructure projects matters especially in developing countries. The paper in this edition makes a case of G20 support in improving project cycles in Africa. Pooling best practices from various parts of the world and necessary capacity building along with innovative financing could help countries build new-age infrastructure that, in turn, aid the development process.

We hope the readers of this issue of *G20 Digest* will find it interesting and informative.

Enjoy reading it.

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