



Digest

– Pursuit for G20 India 2022 Presidency

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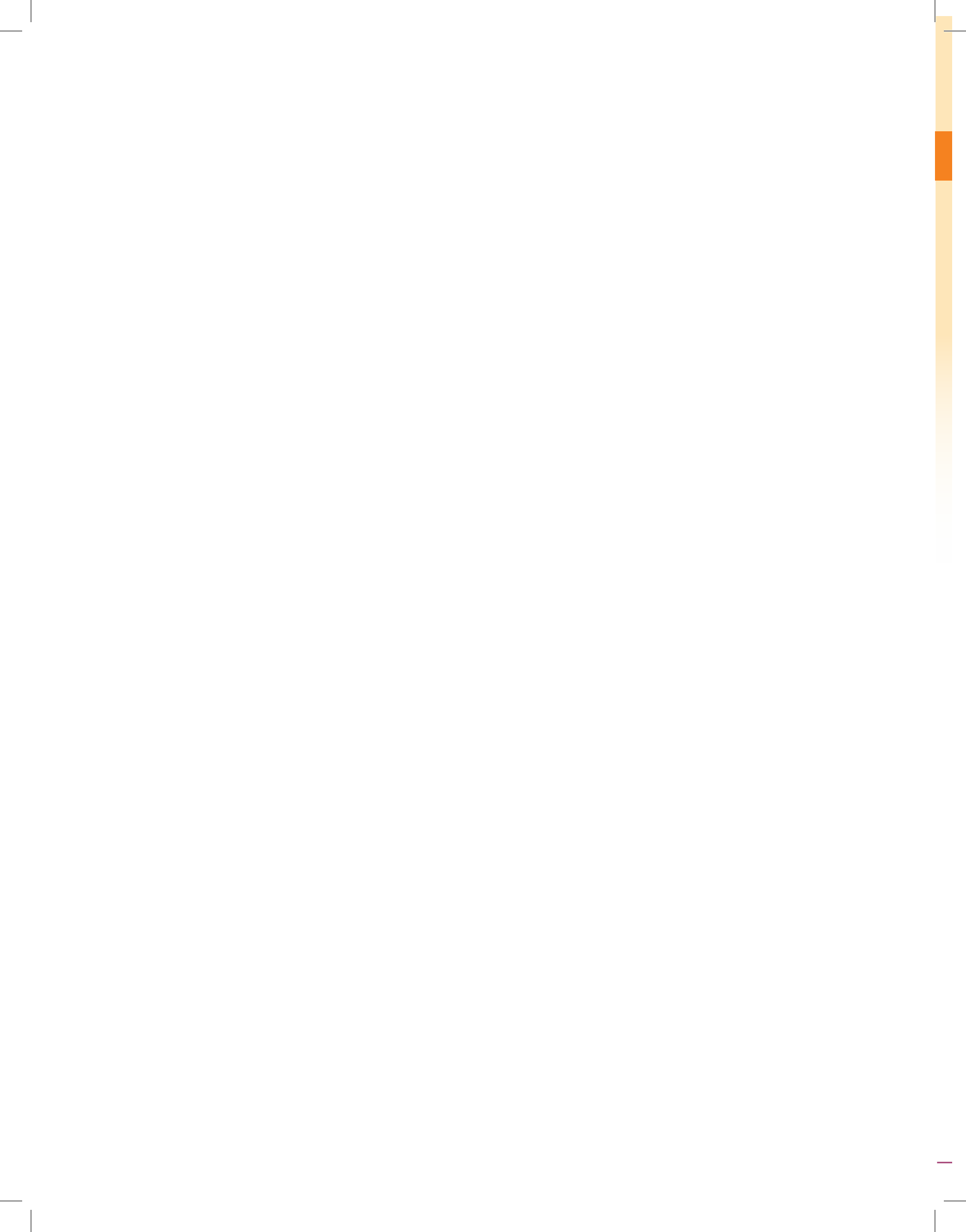
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Development Issues Vital to G20 Process

The recently concluded G20 Osaka Summit in Tokyo in June 2019 once again reiterated the continued emphasis that the 20 leading economies have assigned to development issues. In particular, the last four G20 summits have underlined the specific importance of development dimension in the core agenda. For instance, the Hangzhou Summit 2016 Declaration had a sub-theme 'Inclusive and Interconnected Development' which highlighted the focus on inclusiveness. Likewise, the Hamburg Summit 2017 carried a heading 'Leading the Way towards Sustainable Development' with thrust on implementation of the Agenda 2030. The Osaka Summit has integrated all facets of development under the heading 'Realizing an Inclusive and Sustainable World' covering economic, social and environmental dimensions. Besides providing the scope of G20 commitment for ensuring higher and sustainable GDP growth, employment generation and inclusion, certain development challenges such as food and nutrition security, women empowerment, renewable energy, climate change, poverty and inequality received due recognition in the recent G20 summits. Given the seriousness of these development challenges and the crucial role that G20 needs to play in addressing them, this issue of 'G20 Digest' devotes attention to the crucial issues of food and nutrition security, energy pricing, civil society participation along with an assessment of the overall contribution of G20 Osaka Summit.

The problem of food and nutrition insecurity is pervasive in many parts of the world. It involves several complex dimensions such as ensuring access to adequate supply of nutritious food, planned agriculture production, addressing food shortage through food trade, public procurement and distribution of food, productivity of crops, and so on. G20 commitment on addressing food and nutrition security is a welcome step in that endeavour.

Energy transition has been the topmost priority for G20. G20 has very clearly visualized a road map for transition to clean and renewable energy. Low-carbon growth and less polluting energy sources are the future of the world. The Osaka Energy Communiqué underscores the urgency of tackling the emerging energy challenges through effective public and private sector interventions.

While governments need to bear greater responsibility of ensuring inclusive and sustainable development globally, other stakeholders particularly the civil society can also contribute to the cause of development. The Civil 20 (C20) is an engagement group of G20 process which represents the voice of the civil society organisations for effective articulation of the development aspirations of the people especially the poor and the excluded sections of society.



INTERVIEW

India Plays a key Role in G20 – Suresh Prabhu, G20 Sherpa of India



[Excerpts from the speech made at “De-Briefing Session on Osaka Summit” organised RIS on July 16, 2019]

With your experience how would you say the role of G20 has evolved?

I don't think we've had a time like this. One or the other things have always been in a state of flux. But I put it to you for your consideration, that we've never had a situation like this, when everything really is in full flux, and all the more reason why G20 should succeed. For example, we have always felt that WTO is going to be guardian of global trade. But there are now question marks over existence of WTO itself. So the big challenge is while the world needs good global governance system, and such a complex world needs to be managed properly, at the same time, existing institutions, their existence itself is being challenged. And therefore, big hope of the global community obviously comes from G20. Because they feel G20 can deal with so many important issues. And they will provide direction. And because they represent the most important countries in the world, it would really provide that important guidance. So I think G20 has become such an important event and important platform. So I

think in that context, the recent Osaka summit took place.

While every G20 summit looks at a large menu of issues what do you think were the key issues that the Osaka summit addressed?

You are right. Any G20 summit has to continue with the old issues and at the same time to make sure that the new presidency also puts their stamp on it, you have to take up new issues. And therefore the number of issues that get discussed in G20 has increased manifold over a period of time. From our point of view the Prime Minister Modi proposed a global action against terrorist financing. Money that flows into terrorist network can flow from different parts of the world, and therefore global action is necessary. Also when you commit an economic crime in one country, and you flee that country to escape the legal process of the country where you have committed the offense, I think the global community must cooperate and ensure that we really work on that. So this again, Prime Minister put it very strongly. And I think this again, was quite well received by all the countries at the table.

And among others?

The issue of quality infrastructure in a world that is prey to climate change got a strong endorsement besides of course climate change mitigation measures. It is no longer an academic issue but a reality in which so many countries are suffering huge damage out of it. The natural calamities and disasters have increased, costing billions of dollars to countries which suffer from it. And sometimes the problem is that the country which suffers the ill-effect of climate change are not responsible for climate change. The cause of climate change is the greenhouse gas emissions and the greenhouse gas emissions is also historical because those emissions which already happened in the past are causing climate change today. So it is not today's greenhouse gas emissions are causing climate change, but historical emissions. In this context we raised the role of International Solar Alliance, which in fact, will significantly contribute to changing global energy mix. And if you don't change global energy mix, and move from fossil fuel-based energy to clean and green energy based on renewables, you'll never be able to change and bring down the emission level to substantial level.

The other is the topic of digital economy and technology. And I think digital world is a reality. The fourth industrial revolution that we talk about is largely going to be driven by the digital activities, and therefore, how do you deal with the digital issues and how do you actually have digital governance. How do you make sure that privacy is properly taken care of? How do you make sure that data protection happens properly? How do you make sure that digital world will also ensure that it happens in a way that it helps humanity? That's a very important aspect of it. And therefore, I think we should try to work on it. For example, artificial intelligence, which is part of a new technology. Nobody can stop any case, even if somebody wants, any country cannot stop a new technology from coming into. But you must look at the various aspects of it. For example, artificial intelligence, we should also

look at the ethical issues related to artificial intelligence, because when you are going to create artificial intelligence, a new kind of a society, how that society will be governed.

India will be soon hosting the G20 summit in 2022. How do you assess the issues from here, going ahead?

As you said, India will be doing that in 2022 when we shall complete 75 years of independence. So it's a very important landmark event for us. We must start preparing for it, and ensure that India provides a new type of thought leadership to the issue. And not only from India's perspective, or only from country point of view, which we will do definitely, but also on behalf of rest of the world, who is not present in the G20 meeting. So our ideas should be that G20 must focus on issues which G20 countries are concerned about, but G20 also should be conscious of the fact that there is a world outside G20, which also needs to be heard and properly acted upon. And in fact, I must say that when India participates in G20, it obviously represents India, but also tries to put aspirations of the other developing countries into focus. So we always feel that we represent not only us because we are also one of the or probably the largest developing country in the world in terms of population. And therefore, we must make sure that we also represent the developing countries', developing world's perspective into G20. For instance India believes and that's what we try to put into WTO in the G20 also, that multilateral trading system is something which we really need for making sure that world trade grows. India has taken a number of initiatives to ensure that WTO becomes a centrality to the global trading system, and that is the only option. Suppose, for example, what is the alternative? If WTO goes, how are you going to deal with global trade. It's not rule-based, or system based, how's it going to happen.

Creating Channels for Influencing G20 on Development: The Civil 20 (C20)

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Arjun Phillips**

Abstract: The Civil 20 (C20) is a unique platform and is one of the many engagement groups leveraged by Civil Society Organizations for feeding policy inputs into the G20. The C20 galvanizes the participation of Civil Society Organizations from across the world to interface with G20 presidencies and present their demands. Since 2013, C20 has been shadowing the G20 presidency, and C20 is organized on rotating basis in the host country. It is recognized that Civil Society is integral to the modern-day polity and with their experience of directly involved with people at large is valuable for inclusive decision making, policy coherence and achieving development outcomes.

Introduction

G20 policy actions have far-reaching ramifications across the world and the C20 presents itself as a voice of the common people in projecting long-standing aspirations, desires and experiences. It is also a productive engagement instrument that is utilized to buttress G20's efforts to find ways and means for the most pressing problems of the world. The emergence of Agenda 2030 and recognition by G20 to use the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) for achieving critical objectives pushes for increased participation and partnership with Civil Society. The C20 can also be characterized as the melting pot of global civil society community that made remarkable strides in sensitizing global leaders to make growth and development the cornerstone of the world we want.

The G20 comprises of the 19 major industrialized and emerging economies plus the European Union. In break-up it is the G-7 plus Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) and developing nations such as Brazil, Russia, India, China and South Africa (BRICS). The G-20's members represent two-thirds of the world's population and 85 per cent of its economy. Initially, the G20 was formed to address the emerging global economic and financial crisis and held a series of annual meetings of heads of state and governments focusing on issues related to world economic growth, international trade and financial market regulation. Increasingly it has now started to find tenable solutions for emergent global challenges of development. Thus, G20 implements its agenda via two tracks - Development and Finance. Every year

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the G20 presidency prepares a development agenda that reflects its key priority areas for strengthening the global development outlook which is monitored by the Development Working Group (DWG).

To steer momentum and rapidity for achieving Agenda 2030 the G20 has adopted a series of action plans that reiterate the need for collectively resolving immediate tasks in furtherance of SDGs. At the 2016 Hangzhou Summit, the G20 adopted the G20 Action Plan on the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In this, it also endorsed the 2030 Agenda, which had been adopted one year before as an overarching long-term objective by the international community through the United Nations. The 2017 Hamburg Action Plan evoked the principles of shared prosperity for achieving strong, sustainable, balanced and inclusive growth. The 2018 Buenos Aires Summit laid commitment towards building consensus for fair and sustainable development through an agenda that is people-centred, inclusive and forward-looking.

The recent 2019 Osaka Action Plan stressed on strengthening development as the central nucleus for the G20's objective of achieving strong, sustainable and balanced growth and ensuring a more robust and resilient economy for all. This draws critical attention since many emerging and developing economies currently contribute around three quarters of global growth but face constraints to economic growth and resilience including severe shortfalls in infrastructure, lack of modern and efficient tax systems, and lack of access to financial services by many of their citizens. These constraints then magnify into forming growth bottlenecks that do not allow social-development to fully take shape thereby deeply affecting the pathway for achieving the Agenda 2030.

C20: Vision and Charter

The C20 provides a platform for the Global Civil Society to discuss the issues that have been set as priorities by the host countries and the G20 agenda. Over the years the G20 has been relying on several engagement groups which would provide nuanced policy recommendations. Therefore, there are different engagement groups such as Private sector (B20), Labor (L20), Youth (Y20), Civil Society (C20) and Think Tanks (T20) to influence the agenda. Civil Society Organizations (CSOs), in their individual capacities or collectively, have been involved in the process of providing inputs from the civil society's perspective since the G20 was established. This process has gained prominence and considerable political and economic influence after the inception of the G20 summit.

The G20 members have gradually recognized the importance of engaging with the civil society and as such have established a formal dialogue through Civil 20. Civil Society has been addressing the importance of tackling inequality, food security, governance and anti-corruption, inclusive development and climate change through key priority areas. All summits are stated to have one definite agenda around which the engagement groups prepare their communiqués. The C20 also liaise with the Development Working Groups of G20 which are composed of ministers of the host countries. The C20 is led by Civil Society Organizations of the host country of G20 which elects a steering committee which further elects a chair and co-chair and an official 'Sherpa' to present the communiqué at the G20. The C20 is managed by a 'troika' which consists of previous C20 chair, the current and the future. The 'troika' is an important innovation which leads to seamless continuity in the work for engagement with the G20. An International Advisory Committee (IAC) steers and monitors the outcomes of

C20. Likewise, C20 Chair and Co-Chair are responsible for facilitating the C20 process. The appointment of Chair and Co-Chair is the prerogative of the host country. The Sherpa, chosen by the Chair and Co-Chair, whose appointment is approved by the C20 Steering Committee (SC) and International Advisory Committee (IAC), is the main point of contact with external stakeholders, G20 representatives, international organizations, media, other G20 engagement groups.

Globally, Civil Society participation is important in G20 engagement groups since this ensures that the grouping acts in accordance with inclusive governance and upholds international law and standards in its decision-making. Additionally, the change in presidency facilitates change in the leadership of the C20 since as a process it is not structured. As part of the G20 process, CSOs play multiple roles that include:

- **Provide expertise:** Civil society groups include some of the world's leading experts on a wide range of issues relevant to the G20 process.
- **Hold governments accountable:** Civil society challenges governments to rise up to higher standards and holds them accountable to their own commitments, seeking positive outcomes for society as a whole and pushing for an effective allocation of resources to achieve those outcomes.
- **Explain complex issues in lay terms:** Much of government policy is too technical or abstract for non-specialists. Civil society can help citizens understand what changes mean and how they will impact their everyday lives.
- **Provide balance:** One of the greatest weaknesses of the G20 has been its reluctance to grant civil society the same kind of access it provides to business interests. This does nothing for trust, in

a context in which people around the world believe governments are too close to business or only act in their own interests.

- **Collaborate:** Besides acting as a watchdog, civil society is the home of innovators, technology and policy experts who are able and willing to provide cutting-edge solutions and support to G20 governments on the key issues of our time.

In the G20 Osaka Summit 2019 the C20 officially launched eight-point principles that emphasize the role, mandate and working areas of the grouping. The following represent a list of principles that were recognized and adopted by 800 global civil society organizations that provide contouring and illustration to the C20's architecture and agenda. It is notable that while the G20 has been monitored via the Development Commitments Monitor there is lack of data on monitoring C20 follow-up on G20 communiqués presented over the years. Ever since the first G20 Civil Society Summit in Moscow, Russia, the global civil society has been involved in creating inclusive trajectories that led to increased development outcomes via its influencing and lobbying activities. Every year, the C20 policy pack submits a compilation of recommendations that are intensive, comprehensive and exhaustive list of development priorities. The C20 policy pack includes a variety of themes and underscores the value of civil society in being an important pillar for sourcing citizen data and feeding into this decisive multilateral. The Japanese C20 policy pack called upon G20 for a: *"Fundamental transformation needed to make the world more equal, democratic, peaceful, and sustainable."*

C20 Priority Areas

Aligned to the G20, the C20 relies on working groups to jointly map and structure imperative policy areas that demand attention. Each C20 working group is coordinated by two

organizations – one international and other local/national - with relevant experience on the subjects debated within the working group they coordinate. Their main duties include moderating the debates of the thematic working groups, drafting policy papers, presenting the recommendations of the group that they coordinate at G20 meetings and reporting on their activities to the C20 Sherpa.

The Working Groups are thematic spaces where civil society organizations from all over the world meet in order to debate and produce policy papers aimed at providing concrete recommendations and policy proposals for the G20. These groups comprise all civil society organizations (both domestic and international) interested in participating actively in the C20 process. To ensure C20 maintains legitimacy as a representative of the international CSO community, the SC must have an outreach plan to encourage a diverse range of CSOs, from across the world, to join and participate in the C20 and its working groups. The aim is to have as many and as diverse range as possible of the CSOs participating in the development of policy recommendations and advocacy plans. This means that the outreach should occur as early as possible before initial policy recommendations are discussed

These thematic policy papers are then jointly presented as part of the policy pack to the G20. These papers enumerate the various areas that fall under the development and finance intersectionality of G20:

- **Anti-Corruption:** Addressing major corruption risks in infrastructure projects, public funds should not be used in any one's favour by treating all bids equally, publishing beneficial ownership information to reduce conflicts of interest and creating fair opportunities for companies. Disclosing the identity and beneficial ownership of all bidders through a central and public portal is necessary to
- ensure transparency. Establishing Asset Declaration systems lobby activity must be regulated to prevent infrastructure decision-making from favoritism. It also seeks to increase citizen participation, access to public information and the role of civil society in promoting transparency, monitoring procurement processes and promoting the engagement of communities affected by infrastructure projects.
- **Education:** Realizing sustainable growth through quality education endeavors on designing and promoting socio-educational policies and non-formal education, guaranteeing the rights to public policies including cultural diversity and different social contexts, creating innovations through building work and life skills are fundamental to social development. In addition, a holistic approach towards education must include creating resilient and inclusive future through gender-responsive education, safe and equal access for persons with disabilities, developing educational policies that respond to populations in crisis caused by conflicts and disasters, sensitizing different key actors about children at risk of child labour, system based on restorative justice and prevention of conflicts with the law related to children, adolescents and youth. There is a need for developing a strong policy framework to promote a safe and positive school environment and prevent school violence and bullying.
- **Environment, Climate and Energy:** It is an urgent need for the global society to enhance ambition to prevent the most serious impacts of climate change through concrete commitments on enhancing the Nationally Determined Contributions (NDCs). This would require creating smooth energy transition to a 100 per cent renewable energy future and scaling up climate finance and align financial

flows with the SDGs. At the same time, ensuring infrastructure is low-carbon, inclusive, environmentally-sound and climate resilient is critical. Some other areas of action providing support to global transition towards resilient economies, ecosystems and societies, making efforts for protecting biodiversity to ensure ecosystem integrity and stability and reducing marine plastic pollution.

- **Gender:** Developing and implementing National Implementation Plans to reduce the gender gap in labour market participation by 25 per cent by focusing on decent work, applying an intersectional approach, increasing resources to prevent, respond to, and monitor gender-based violence need to be emphasised. Equal attention should be on eliminating intersectional discrimination and harmful gender norms at the community and national level by institutionalizing a gender mainstreaming strategy across the G20 agenda and establishing a Ministerial Working Group on Gender ensuring accountability.
- **Global Health:** Universal Health Coverage (UHC) stipulates access to quality health services without risk of financial hardship. Donor governments must invest in Overseas Development Assistance (ODA) with priority on global health for low income countries. Marginalized communities, along with civil society, must be actively involved in policy planning, decision making, implementation, monitoring and evaluation, and accountability. Any UHC framework must be grounded in a human-rights based approach. It is essential that the ageing population and long-term care expenditures must be considered as integral components of UHC framework and planning. Additionally, ensuring a multi-stakeholder response to dementia must be prioritised. The

Governments must enact effective policies to reduce consumption of unhealthy products and promote the consumption of healthy products. In addition, G20 countries need to act on supporting and financing evidence-based research for new diagnostics, committing to concrete action plans to deliver commitments on Tuberculosis (TB), focusing on reviewing performance and collaboration of existing stakeholders in health emergencies and outbreak responses.

- **Infrastructure:** Sustainable infrastructure development must consist of inclusive approaches. It needs to be consistent with key international goals and agreements along with national strategies and priorities. Infrastructure investments should be designed and implemented through participatory processes that help identify, mitigate and manage social and environmental impacts. Labour standards need to be maintained also with protection of construction workers' rights. Anti-corruption measures must be an integral part of planning, delivery, operation and maintenance of infrastructure. Improvements in transparency and accountability are needed to meet the challenges of corruption, mismanagement and inefficiency. Effective tools are needed to assess fiscal risks of Public Private Partnerships (PPPs) and those should be open and transparent.
- **International Financial Architecture:** One of the important field of reforms in international financial architecture, fiscal transparency and control over illicit financial flows need to be ensured through developing a multilateral convention establishing some minimum standards. Lobbying for implementing the OECD's Common Reporting Standard may be encouraged. Comprehensive taxation reforms including developing a new

definition would be a pragmatic step in that direction. Countries should adhere to the commitments of the Base Erosion Profit Sharing (BEPS) framework. It would require undertaking spill-over analyses and gender analysis of tax measures and addressing gender gaps. Developing a global asset registries necessary to allow for measuring inequality, identifying illicit financial flows and apply wealth taxes. Further, a new strategy of global cooperation is needed to prevent new global financial risks and crises that should promote financial reforms and the financial system. Additional measures may include promoting sustainable societies and economies, and adapting to developing countries' financial priorities, including SDGs. G20 should take bold actions to prevent frequent occurrence of debt crises in many countries of the world.

- **Labour, Business and Human Rights:** In the area of labour reforms, decent employment, vacancy quota for internships, and protecting youth employment are some of the key policy issues. Public policies need to guarantee labor inclusion and social security of women and reduction of gender gap. Legal and social protection framework should be developed for informal economy workers and migrant workers. Appropriate steps are warranted for implementing the UN Guiding Principles on Business and Human Rights. Inclusive policies must include an effective exercise of digital citizenship avoiding the discrimination of collectives in relation to technological access. Developing cybersecurity approaches in close collaboration with all stakeholders for protecting human rights and values require urgent policy action.
- **Local to Global:** Governments should focus on implementing policies to support freedom of action and legal creation and

operation for civil society. At the same time, civil society as a legitimate actor for implementing policies needs to be recognized to participate in decision-making processes in an inclusive and democratic way. A calibrated approach of adopting procedures and channels for inclusive partnerships, including roadmaps for CSO-State engagement, building and strengthening multi-sectoral partnerships for development is necessary to accomplish the SDGs.

- **Trade and Investment:** Trade could be a means to facilitate economic and social transformation of the countries. Trade agreements must factor these considerations along with adequate provisions for social security of the citizens. Governments need to protect local markets for meeting social and environmental needs. Trade agreements must protect workers' rights and consistent with human rights obligations. Developing countries can be supported by giving the no reciprocal market access benefits. Trade and investment policies must not give investors unfair advantages over other sections of society and digital economy should not benefit a handful of powerful multinational companies (MNCs). The World Trade Organization (WTO) should have adequate special and differential treatments for developing countries, and avoid treating developing countries by the same benchmarks as employed for the developed countries.

India, G20 & C20

India is an important member of G20 contributing to streamline the global financial architecture. In its participation at the global forum it has made consistent efforts ranging from streamlining infrastructure financing, pitching the need for inclusive development, countering financial terrorism

and pursuing a robust financial architecture. India's primary mandate has weaved around creating a sustainable financial regime, inducing a productive market environment for employment generation and encouraging the world to find common shared solutions. The G20 Summits have also allowed the countries to move forward towards poverty eradication and sustainable development, besides increasing its trade and investment. On the sidelines of G20 Summit in 2018, Prime Minister Narendra Modi announced that India will host the G20 Summit in 2022, when the country celebrates its 75th year of independence. The 2022 summit will be critically important for India considering that such an important global event will be held in India.

Two very important developments in the past few years are indicative of the urgency with which Indian Civil Society Organizations need to engage with the G20. The emergence of G20 as a global platform has created hope among the member countries that pending reforms of the Bretton Woods institutions such as IMF and the World Bank, and the WTO. Since important trading nations are members, G20 can take of relevant areas of global trade and investment for wider debate and consensus building. India's climb to economic heights has been instrumental in making it wield considerable political influence in the new formations such as BRICS, IBSA, etc. On this basis the Indian government is positioned to promote its own agenda within the G20 and represent the interests and demands of sections that it considers to be major stakeholders in the development process.

Conclusion

For an effective G20 outcome, civil society organizations are deeply interested in fulfillment of the development objectives of the countries. G20 gathers key recommendations from grassroots and reflect the current gaps

urgently requiring critical attention. It is imperative to note that policy initiatives advanced on this premise will achieve a comprehensive solution for socio-economic deficits faced by developing countries leading to robust South-South Cooperation. Civil Society Organizations across the world have been voicing these issues at multiple platforms and have been collectively advocating for change in the status quo. Like other developing countries, India's Civil Society Organizations have a gamut of experiences and contain valuable social/behavioural examples which can be articulated effectively through G20 for wider impact. The world is glued to India's baton for G20 and has placed high hopes because of its assertive leadership in promoting global public goods and being the world's largest democracy. The civil society organizations of India can play an important role in India's G20 Presidency in 2022 by highlighting major social and developmental concerns affecting the people at large. Over a decade, Voluntary Action Network India (VANI) along with other key international Civil Society Organizations has been involved in the G20 process, consistently raising and sensitizing like-minded entities about G20 issues. As part of the Civil Society Engagement Strategy, VANI galvanized the support base of 10,000 CSOs. VANI envisages that capacity building and data sourcing from the grass root level will build into the advocacy and priority component of the upcoming G20 summits.

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Food and Nutrition Security in G20: Reflections and Critical Gaps

P. K. Anand*

Krishna Kumar*

Abstract: Global food and nutrition security is a worldwide concern. The eradication of extreme poverty and hunger was one of the Millennium Development Goals and remains a priority in the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development along with it interconnects like sustainable agriculture, water, health, education and environment. The G20 forum has realized that the global economic stability cannot be achieved till the global challenge of food security is fully met. This paper argues that to handle the crucial factors affecting food and nutrition security like gender inequality, climate change, etc. there is a need for establishment of a Food and Nutrition Security Bank with G20 partnership. Local innovative actions and strategies will be necessary to address the challenge of food insecurity as well as the double burden of undernutrition and overweight/obesity.

Introduction

G20 accords a lot of importance to the issue of the global food security. In fact, this has been an important part of G20 communiqués and declarations. G20 countries collectively account for approximately half of world's land area, 60 per cent of world's agricultural land and 80 per cent of global agricultural trade. That is the reason that G20 grouping would play an important role in advancing sustainable agricultural production system to address global issue of food and nutrition security, which affects the poorest countries of the world the most. Realizing their responsibility from the early years of its

formation, G20 countries acknowledge that for a well-functioning global economy, global food security and food price stability should be its essential components.

In the context of G20, food cannot be perceived in a narrow sense as something that provides calories to the body but it should be ensuring proper ingredients, which would lead to physiological balance, biological development and would facilitate physical and cognitive needs of an individual through sufficiency of nutrition. These various attributes of food security can be manifested in Figure1.

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Figure 1: Attributes of Food Security



Source: Authors' compilations.

Even a quick look at different interconnects among various Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) reveals that unless SDG 1 on no poverty and SDG 2 on no hunger are achieved, remaining 15 SDGs cannot be realized. G20 can act as a deliberative platform to create consensus to nudge all stakeholders towards fast-tracking these goals, while achieving the entire 2030 Agenda.

In this context, the Global Report on Food Crises published by Food Security Information Network (FSIN) in 2019, indicated that during 2016, 2017 and 2018 more than 100 million people were in urgent need of food, nutrition and livelihood assistance. In this context, it is worth recalling Malthus who had argued over two centuries ago that populations grew exponentially while food supply increased arithmetically. Notwithstanding the fact that global food production has largely kept pace with the rising population, the situation does long for apt attention. An analysis of the FAOSTAT based comparison of 3-year moving average of global cereal production,

over 1962 to 2012 reveals that annual increases have diminished marginally resulting into concavity towards the time axis. Supporting numbers indicate that while the annual rate of increase in cereal production (moving average) was 2.64 per cent during the 25-year period from 1962 to 1987 its growth rate had fallen to 1.58 per cent during the next 25-year period from 1987 to 2012.

Burgeoning Population to Feed

It would be relevant to juxtapose increased rates of cereal production against increased rates of population and per capita income. Notably, as per the population estimates and projections by United Nations Department of Economic and Social Affairs (UNDESA), the world population increased from 3.15 billion in 1962 to 5.05 billion in 1987 to 7.13 billion in 2012, and 7.55 billion in 2017. Thus, during 1962 to 1987, annual increase in global population was 1.91 per cent, which come down to 1.38 per cent during 1987 to 2012. In nutshell, fallen population growth rate compared to the cereal production growth rate in a way has saved

many vulnerable people from starvation. Besides access to food, it is important to assess how to meet calorific needs through cereals, keeping aside nutritional needs.

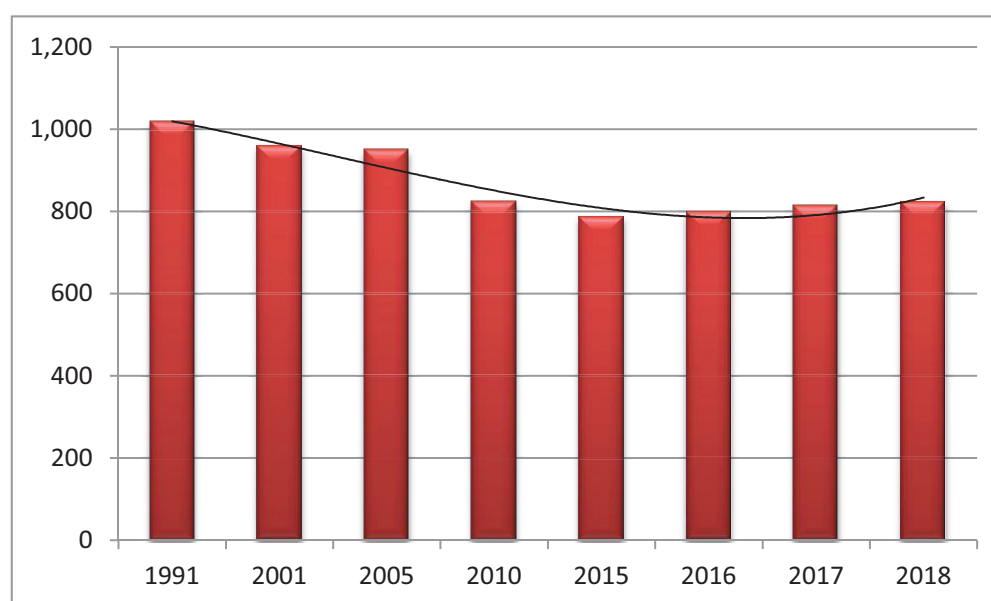
Besides rising population a number of other factors also put upward pressure on food demand. One such factor is the rise in per capita income; as has been globally witnessed (in PPP terms at constant US dollar). If we don't consider 2008 as the base year (due to global subprime mortgage- led financial crisis), the annual increase in per capita global income was 2.02 per cent (PPP in 2011 constant US dollar terms) during 2007-17. Another related factor is the income elasticity of food demand as the increase in expenditure on food is mostly below the increase in income, i.e. the income elasticity of food demand is less than one, as enunciated by Engel's law. Of course, on segregation of the food basket one may find items as diverse as highly nutritive or highly addictive, which have income elasticity of demand exceeding one.

Double Burden of Malnutrition – A Persisting Reality

Owing to continued double burden of malnutrition, which includes the burden of undernutrition as well the second burden of overweight/obesity, the euphoria of global progress is becoming questionable¹. In fact, the world is suffering from the double burden of undernutrition on the one hand, and overweight/obesity on the other hand. Each year, malnutrition claims lives of almost 3 million children, and robs over 2 billion people of their health and well-being. According to UNICEF, it is estimated that malnutrition in all its forms can cost society up to US\$ 3.5 trillion per year in terms of lost productivity and health care expenditure (with overweight and obesity alone costing US\$ 500 billion per year).

It was expected that with the global growth clubbed with trade expansion the number of undernourished persons would decline. Unfortunately, the ground realities are otherwise, as depicted in Figure 2. Therefore,

Figure 2: Number of Undernourished Persons in the World (million)



Sources: FAO (2013); and FAO (2019).

it is all the more necessary for G20 to facilitate policies of undernourishment reduction.

In order to better understand the extent of malnutrition, it is relevant to consider countries more vulnerable to food security as the global aggregates can not capture the aspects of distribution and affordability. According to the Food Security Information Network (FSIN) (2019), despite a reduction of 11 million in 2018 compared to 2017, more than 113 million people still experienced acute hunger. Eight countries, namely Yemen, the Democratic Republic of the Congo, Afghanistan, Ethiopia, the Syrian Arab Republic, the Sudan, South Sudan and Nigeria accounted for two-thirds of the total number of people facing acute food insecurity. A closer look at the population growth in these eight countries in the backdrop of population growth in the high, middle, low income groups as a whole from 1987 to 2017, indicates that while high, middle, as and low-income country groups had population increase of 22 per cent, 50 per cent and 127 per cent, respectively, in Afghanistan and Yemen population grew by 209 per cent and 166 per cent, respectively, and in the five African countries population increased from 117 per cent to 158 per cent. Syria, of course, had a population increase of only 61 per cent after considering huge outmigration of people owing to conflict situation. While these countries were suffering from food insecurity, there was a section of people across the world facing the burden of overweight and obesity, because of imbalance between too much energy consumed and too little expended. On this, WHO has pointed out that globally people are consuming more energy-dense (high in sugars and fats) foods and drinks, and engaged lesser in physical activity.

WHO data revealed that over 39 per cent of adults aged 18 years and above, numbering

1.9 billion, were overweight (BMI greater than or equal to 25) in 2016, and among them 13 per cent, numbering 650 million, were obese (BMI greater than or equal to 30). Moreover, the incidence of obesity has nearly tripled since 1975. Even among children under the age of 5 as high as 41 million were overweight (including obese) in 2016. The number of undernourished people and of severely food insecure people was 803.1 million and 684.7 million, respectively, in 2015-2017. The number of children of 5 years of age affected by wasting or who were stunted was 50.5 million and 150.8 million, respectively, in 2017. The number of women of productive age (15-49 years) affected by anemia had increased from 552.2 million in 2012 to 613.2 million in 2016.

Coming to the other side of the double burden of malnutrition, the number of overweight children under 5 years age, increased from 35.7 million in 2012 to 38.3 million in 2017; and number of obese adults (18+ years) increased from 563.7 million in 2012 to 672.3 million in 2016. These problems can no longer be overlooked as they are not limited only to food and nutrition security but there is also a danger to security of human race and owing adverse affect of climate change.

Among G20 countries while stunting among children and anemia among women remain major undernutrition concerns, the spread of overweight and obese facing sections of population have of late added to double burden of malnutrition.

It is assumed that in the developed world, the problem of undernutrition may be miniscule. The figures indicate otherwise – as in the USA 1.1 per cent people were severely food insecure in 2015-2017, 13.3 per cent of women of productive age (15-49 years) were affected by anemia in 2016. The situation was

even worse in Europe with 1.5 and 20.2 per cent, respectively under these two categories. As expected the situation is much worse on the front of other side of burden, for instance the percentage of adults (18+ years) who were obese was 25.4 and 37.3 per cent, respectively, in 2016 in Europe and the USA, which had increased since 2012 from 23.4 and 34.7 per cent respectively.

Massive Future Food Demand

It is obvious that population rise and economic growth would escalate food demand. Moreover, factors like climate change and inadequate food and nutrition may lead to unexpected upheavals further upsetting these estimates. Rising per capita world GDP (constant 2010 US\$), which increased from US\$ 8,189 in 2000 to US\$ 10,307 in 2015 and further to US\$ 10,657 in 2017 would also increase food demand. Although agricultural production more than tripled between 1960 and 2015 but the same period has also shown remarkable process of industrialization and globalization of food and agriculture leading to increased consumption of processed, packaged and prepared foods. Nevertheless, persistent and widespread hunger and malnutrition remains a huge challenge in many parts of the world.

Increased Impact of Climate Change

The current rate of progress would not be enough to eradicate hunger by 2030, and not even by 2050. At the same time, another burden is that the evolution of food systems has both responded to and driven changing dietary preferences and patterns of overconsumption, which is reflected in the staggering increases in the prevalence of overweight and obesity around the world. Expanding food production and economic growth have often come at a heavy cost to natural environment ; for instance groundwater sources are getting

depleted rapidly and biodiversity is being deeply eroded. Further, burning of fossil fuels is leading to emission of greenhouse gases, which are responsible for global warming and climate change. Incidences of natural disasters have increased five-fold since the 1970s. Deforestation and degradation of land, has also led to the problem of disasters ultimately affecting communities and the economy. The Dry Corridor in Central America, particularly, Guatemala, Honduras and El Salvador, and dry weather in parts of Southern Africa have reduced the prospects of agriculture production and productivity. El Niño conditions, which can significantly influence weather pattern, ocean condition and marine fisheries, are likely to have an impact on agricultural production and food prices in Latin America and the Caribbean. The changes in dietary patterns, particularly due to urbanization, have increased resource-, energy-, and emission-intensity of global food system. These trends are threatening sustainability of food systems and are undermining world's capacity in meeting its food needs. In brief, the climate change coupled with other factors like global economic instability, changing food consumption patterns are some of the major causes for food and nutrition insecurity.

Thus from the lens of G20 one can visualise dynamics of food security leading to need for widespread urgent action not limited only to G20 countries. Recognizing this urgency, on 1st April 2016, the United Nations General Assembly proclaimed 2016-2025 as the UN Decade of Action on Nutrition. This decade stands testimony to the commitment by the United Nations Member States to undertake 10 years of sustained and coherent implementation of policies, programmes and increased investments to eliminate malnutrition in all its forms, everywhere, leaving no one behind. It would provide

a unique opportunity to all countries and stakeholders to unite around a common framework and to increase visibility, coordination, efficiency and effectiveness of nutrition action at all levels across the world. In a related initiative, Nutrition for Growth (N4G) deliberated upon, and its communique in 2016 highlighted the need for a global movement to increase global attention to the nutrition challenge, and to build global momentum for a major pledging moment. On these lines, the 2019 declaration of G20 Agriculture Ministers also focused on the need to achieve food security and to improve nutrition for growing population.

Impact of Gender on Food and Nutrition Security

Gender equality is essential in the sphere of food and nutrition security to achieve overall gender equality envisaged under SDG 5 to bring out full potential of females. There is also a need to generate awareness especially about nutritional needs of adolescent girls and pregnant and lactating women.

In this direction, the Buenos Aires G20 declaration pronounced: “ Gender equality is crucial for economic growth and fair and sustainable development.” It also emphasized on the need to reduce gender gap in labour force participation rates, to promote initiatives aimed at ending all forms of discrimination, to promote women’s economic empowerment and access to leadership and decision making positions, increasing their participation in STEM (Science, Technology, Engineering and Mathematics) and high tech sectors, and welcomed the continued implementation of the Women Entrepreneurs Financing Initiative (WeFi), thanking the Business Women Leaders’ Taskforce for its work. Recognizing importance of G20 among the

various engagements formed, ‘Women 20’ was included. The Summit declaration 2018 also took into account valuable work undertaken by various groups, including Women 20.

Further, the 2019 Agriculture Ministers’ declaration underscored: “Women play an important role in the agro-food sector. We seek to overcome obstacles which prevent them from being equal contributors to and beneficiaries of Food Value Chains (FVCs). In particular, their empowerment through equitable access to innovation and skill training is important to the sustainable development and growth of agro-food sector.”

International Community Response

The 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development

Recognizing these challenges, the international community, while adopting the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development has included an exclusive goal on ending hunger by increasing production and productivity of agriculture and simultaneously addressing sustainability issues relating to agriculture sector. The related Sustainable Development Goal (SDG 2) has multiple objectives and their achievements are linked to other SDGs, in particular, SDG 5 on gender equality; SDG 6 on sustainable management of water and sanitation; SDG 7 on accessibility to modern energy; SDG 13 on combating climate change; SDG 14 on conserving and sustainable use the oceans, seas and marine resources and terrestrial ecosystems; SDG 15 on halting and reversing land degradation and halting biodiversity loss; and SDG 17 on global partnership in the areas of finance, technology, capacity-building, trade, policy and institutional coherence, multi-stakeholder partnerships, data, monitoring and accountability. The decision-

makers would have to, therefore, consider inter-linkages and interactions between SDG 2 and all other goals for bringing out synergies and trade-offs.

The other international commitments made in the year 2015, which are integral part of the 2030 Agenda, like Addis Ababa Action Agenda (AAAA) and the Paris Agreement on climate change, and the Sendai Framework for Disaster Risk Reduction too called for pursuing policy coherence and to establish enabling environments for sustainable development at all levels, and also have given priority to the agriculture sector.

G20 Communique and Declarations

The G20 as an international forum consisting of 19 individual countries and the European Union (EU) promotes open and constructive discussions among industrially developed nations and emerging nations aimed at causing order in global financial markets, economic growth and development.

In 2011 French Presidency put agriculture and food security as one of its priorities. A meeting of the “Agriculture Ministers” was organized and an “Action Plan on food price volatility and agriculture” was prepared and then accepted at the Leaders’ Summit. The follow-up to realize its objectives included in the Action Plan resulted in setting up of the International Research Initiative for Wheat Improvement (IRIWI), Agricultural Market Information System (AMIS), Rapid Policy Development Platform (RRF) and Global Agricultural Geographical Monitoring Initiative (GEOGLAM).

In 2014, under the Australian Presidency, the theme for discussion was: “Food Safety, Economic Growth and Employment.” In 2016, under the Chinese Presidency, the Agriculture Ministers’ Meeting discussed

the Agenda item relating to “Agricultural Innovation and Sustainable Development” in line with the requirements of the 2030 Agenda for Sustainable Development. In 2017, under the German Presidency, a Global Forum with theme of “Agriculture and Water: Key to Feed The World” was organized. The Agriculture Ministers Meeting of 2017 discussed the theme “Sustainability and Innovation for Food and Water Security”, and the Final Declaration and the resultant Action Plan were prepared and adopted. These documents mainly included Agriculture and Water, Paris Agreement on Climate Change, Information Technologies and Antibiotic Resistance. In 2018, under the Argentina Presidency, G20 had set out agriculture and food as the priority area and discussed the theme “A Sustainable Food Future: Improving Soils and Increasing Productivity”. The declaration of the Agriculture Ministers Meeting of 2018 is committed to work collaboratively toward ending hunger, promoting sustainable agriculture, and ensuring a sustainable food future for all. To address the global food security and malnutrition challenges, the Leaders’ Summit of 2018 is committed to the development of a sustainable and inclusive food system. In the Agriculture Ministers’ meeting held at Niigata in 2019, various aspects of food security and nutrition were deliberated at length. Building upon these, the G20 Osaka Leaders’ Declaration of 2019 committed to achieve food security and improve nutrition for the global population through enhancing agricultural productivity and bringing efficiency in the food distribution system by utilizing advanced technologies, such as Information and Communication Technology (ICT), Artificial Intelligence (AI) and robotics. The declaration puts due emphasis on cross-sectoral collaboration among stakeholders, innovation, skills training, empowering youth and women in

the agro-food sector, developing agro-food value chains, enhanced information sharing and research collaboration, voluntary exchange of good practices and knowledge towards more sustainable agro-food sector.

A look at the various declarations of Agriculture Ministers' meeting and declarations of G20 Leaders' Summit has revealed that the forum has been considerate about addressing the global problem of food and nutrition security through measures like increasing agriculture production, productivity and information flows.

Way Forward

There is sufficient cereal production at the aggregate level to meet calorific requirement of the world population. At the same time it has been noticed that in certain pockets of the world people are suffering from severe food insecurity as even minimum calorific needs have not been met. This contradictory situation certainly demands a well-managed food supply, accessibility and strong delivery mechanism. Both supply side and demand side issues have to be addressed adequately and simultaneously.

The Voluntary National Review Reports (VNRs) presented at the High level Political Forum (HLPF) of the United Nations by various countries, including those suffering from the severe problem of food insecurity, have revealed that even though each country at its level is concerned about the food security and is taking certain steps, but due to interconnects, a global collective action is much needed. As the 'Business as usual' scenario is not enough to solve the crisis, a well thought global framework and under it concrete interventions at various fora, including G20, which is better positioned to influence the global policy, are imperative.

In view of the critical gaps in capturing various dimensions of food and nutrition

security, G20 may consider the following policy choices for better outcome and effective delivery by the member countries:

Awareness Advocacy

To get support from all segments of the society and all individuals it is essential that G20 moves forward to advocate on awareness issues, especially about nutrition, hygiene, burdens of undernutrition and overweight/obesity and critical importance of micro-nutrients.

Higher Weightage on Nutrition than Calorific Interventions

It is a fact that today's world is better equipped to mitigate hunger in affected pockets of any country through swift movement of foodgrains. It is high time that the responses are not limited only to calorific based food but should be nutrition-based too. Given the diversity of food requirements to meet not only hunger but also the 'hidden hunger' the response mechanism should also be made nutrition centric. This necessitates mapping of supply options across globe to meet unforeseen demand from any country. Therefore, policy orientation needs to be shifted from cereal based to a complete and nutritive food basket including items meeting protein, fibre, micronutrient, mineral and vitamin needs along with carbohydrate and essential quantity of fat.

From Food-aid Policies to Food and Nutrition Partnerships

The very syndrome of the food-aid relegates some countries to the status of perpetual recipients. Therefore, there is need to harness potential of all countries to propagate food security. Each country is capable of contributing one or more food items, at least in the years when it doesn't face food insecurity, to meet requirements of some needy countries. This would add hitherto unexplored channels

to global trade, exchange and physical food credits. G20 can push to generate, collate and utilize such information to evolve new channels to keep food insecurity and hunger at bay all the more when at the global aggregate level hunger is again raising its ugly head.

Wastage Avoided Equivalent to Food Produced

It is a travesty that significant volume of food produced is lost along the supply chain when millions of people still continue to suffer from hunger. This is undoubtedly also an abuse of inputs used such as land, water, energy, nutrients and pesticides. Efforts are needed to reduce these losses to move towards food security and improve resource efficiency. Reducing food losses is akin to food production without any adverse impacts on climate change.

Setting up of a platform through a collective effort of G20 Forum for sharing information on reducing food waste and emissions averted would facilitate national governments to concretize plans of action at the local level for curbing food losses. For instance, practices among some of the G20 countries like taking away leftover food in a restaurant, establishment of food ATMs and creation of Food Banks for the needy are some of the initiatives which can be replicated.

Creation of food stocks and advance end-to-end tie-ups for packaging, logistics, distribution and communication can be elements of disaster management plan. The recipient country should be ready with a smooth distribution plan which functions in the thick of the disaster.

Food-processing as a critical element of food chain would come handy in reducing food wastage. G20 can help in increasing proportion of food processing through cooperation in sharing technologies and information on availability of not only cereals but also

other processed items like cereal including cereal-coarse-cereal-mix preparations, cereal-pulses preparations, milk products, fruit and vegetable packets and other items meeting calorific and nutrition requirements. Such cooperation should also be extended to modern storage and nutrition preserving techniques. Added focus on nutrition would also help beneficiaries of food aid to recover faster and avert gravity of sickness from disaster-led domestic food shortages.

G20 Partnership for Establishing Food and Nutrition Security Paper Credits Bank

It is recognized that even the countries that suffer frequent food shortages are also in a position to supply some food items in the years of surplus. For instance, notwithstanding food security issues Afghanistan and Yemen are proven suppliers of nuts and fish, respectively. Under the proposed initiative each willing member country besides all the G20 countries can offer to the proposed Food Bank the quantities which they can supply at the market price. On purchase of any food item paper credits should be given to the supplier countries against which up to a fixed multiple of the credit they should get financial credit through soft loans to tie over any food shortages by making payments to suppliers. This system would invoke the feeling of partnership and dignity to the countries facing food shortages. To the extent comparative advantage operates these countries can increase production in items offered by increasing their surplus to plentiful quantities.

G20 should also nudge the multilateral financial institutions to extend soft credit to institutions that can reform food supply mechanism through interventions like establishment of cold storage, food processing, irrigation water saving devices, soil testing, food wastage averting initiatives and so on.

Climate Change and Sustainability

FAO (2018) argues that, ‘Another challenge is that adaptation has limits, a critical aspect to keep in mind when designing measures to prevent risk and address the effects of increased climate variability and extremes.’ It stressed that adaptation is no longer feasible once thresholds are reached.

It suggests that, ‘Transformational change will not happen without dependable, multi-year and large-scale financing as well as shared climate resilience good practices and knowledge management. It adds that, ‘Cost-benefit analysis (CBA) can help policy-makers explore alternative options and expected net benefits in order to determine the best allocation of resources.’

From Reaction-based to Well-planned Response-based Mechanisms

Natural calamity/disaster is a major trigger point leading to disruption in food supply chains. No doubt, many types of disasters like earthquake are still largely unpredictable, and floods, cloudbursts, landslides, typhoons hit one or another part of the world, though at varying degrees of intensities and resultant food supply disruption. It may not be possible to predict the next country/region going to face such disaster, but the past pattern indicates that occurrences keep on happening though the country likely to be affected may not be known. Therefore, global preparedness for assuring food security to the people of the affected area (even though the likely sites are unknown) on the occurrence of such disasters can still be planned.

Moreover, though a famine’s adverse impact is widespread, it gives some leeway to plan relief right from the beginning of the sowing season.

Endnote

1. WHO defines malnutrition to cover two broad conditions, one is ‘undernutrition’ including stunting, wasting, underweight, micronutrition deficiencies/insufficiencies; and the other is overweight, obesity, diet related non-communicable diseases etc. (detailed visit: <https://www.who.int/features/qa/malnutrition/en/> last accessed on 24th September 2019.)

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Examining the Implications of the Stance on Energy at the G20 Osaka Summit

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Abstract: The G20 Osaka summit will be noticed for its strong emphasis on innovations even as it articulated a very nuanced view on most hot button energy issues. The nuances took care to accommodate differing and often almost opposite positions on environment issues. These differences meant short term trends including that of safety of energy on high seas found a mention in the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration. Since the next summit will be hosted by Saudi Arabia it is worth considering if this trend would get accentuated. Lack of access to energy has been rightfully espoused in line with the Sustainable Development Goal-7, but because of the differing concerns on the path, the unequivocal linkage of it with renewable energy has got somewhat muted.

Introduction

Unlike the role essayed by the WTO which despite vicissitudes sets a global narrative on international trade, the course of energy has no such universal agenda. The Intergovernmental Panel on Climate Change (IPCC) of the United Nations has a priority to take an objective and scientific view of climate change with the possible set of response to those. While how citizens of the world consume energy has a big role to play in it, there are other dimensions of energy notably unequal access to it globally which are hugely significant for the human race and which naturally do not find much of a play there. Yet there is a belated but growing recognition that energy issues are central to the removal of poverty. Even in Europe the

range varies between 50 and 125 million people. Yet a common European definition does not exist, "but many Member States (MS) acknowledge the scale of this socio-economic situation and its negative impact translated into severe health issues and social isolation".¹ In the same vein is the argument that "Limited access to modern and affordable energy services is an important contributor to the poverty levels in developing countries, particularly in sub-Saharan Africa and some parts of Asia".² While there are think tanks and industry bodies that are in the fray, there is often an absence a global agenda setting approach for the energy sector. In this context the role of the annual G20 and its energy ministers meeting has to be regarded as the definite group of entities to set the agenda for the sector.

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It is with this perspective that we should examine both the G20 Osaka Leaders' Declaration (Osaka LD) and the Communiqué G20 Ministerial Meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment for Sustainable Growth (Energy Communique) held on June 15-16 in Karuizawa, Japan.

Issues

Among the key arguments to emerge from the summit on energy are:

- The Osaka LD reiterated forcefully the need to align the global choice of energy with concerns on climate change.³
- The Energy Communique recognised the opportunities for fostering a cleaner energy future that supports economic growth. In the basket of renewable energy it recognised for the first time the role of hydrogen as an alternative fuel. Along with, it made a forceful case for Carbon Capture, Utilization and Storage (CCUS) technology. In addition it also endorsed the G20 Japanese Presidency's initiative called Research and Development 20 for introducing clean energy technologies ("RD20").⁴
- The Osaka LD also acknowledged the role of traditional fuel in two areas. a) it has expressed concern about ensuring the safe flow of energy across national borders; b) the definition of energy transitions has been broadened to include the 3E+S formula (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, and Environment + Safety).
- It has brought in a commitment on "medium term" rationalization and phasing-out of inefficient fossil fuel subsidies which encourage wasteful consumption, while providing targeted support for the poorest.
- A very key deliverable this time was the Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter.⁵

Marine Plastic Litter

Handling of marine plastic litter is an absolutely new but essential step the G20 has taken up as a new dimension of environment challenge. The common agenda has left it to the discretion of the countries to come up with national level data on the amount of waste generated, reused, collected, recycled, and properly disposed of. On the plus side the nations can also showcase the amount of marine litter cleaned up; the scale of use of innovative technologies and materials including R&D investment made to address another global challenge. Since the topic has entered the debate serendipitously, the document leaves the actionable points to the nations but one can be sure that pressure will soon mount to set up a common global system of measuring waste and recycling of those, for the governments of most of the G20 countries to adhere to.

Future Role of Hydrogen

The striking difference of the Osaka Energy Communique compared with the Buenos Aires Communique⁶ where the emphasis was clearly on renewables and the path to it, is the recognition of the competing alternatives. This has opened up some fascinating questions on the road map for renewables going ahead. This is in the context of the recognition of the future role of hydrogen but is not just limited to it. It could get extended to the role of synthetic fuels too. These fuels at the current level of scientific development are being derived from fossil fuels, mostly coal. The option to therefore sew in these fuels in the long term future energy road map is quite a reversal from the renewables only future (with fossil fuels as at best a middle term option) that was contemplated till Buenos Aires.

Recognition of the emerging role of Hydrogen is, therefore the most significant

development. Hydrogen based fuel cells will be possible “breakthrough innovations” and an “indispensable impetus for a virtuous cycle of environment and growth for leading energy transitions. But producing hydrogen from low-carbon energy is costly at the moment (IEA, 2019)⁷. Not only that while hydrogen is already being used on an industrial scale in some countries, but it is almost entirely supplied from natural gas and coal. Its production, mainly for the chemicals and refining industries, is responsible for 830 million tonnes of CO₂ emissions per year. “That’s the equivalent of the annual carbon emissions of the United Kingdom and Indonesia combined.”⁸ In the USA the vast majority of hydrogen is mainly used by industry for refining petroleum, treating metals, producing fertilizer, and processing foods in addition to its use as space fuel (EIA).⁹ Hydrogen as an alternative transportation fuel could power zero-emission electric vehicles while retaining the vehicle’s potential for high efficiency.

To make hydrogen as one of the leaders in renewables would also require major changes in both the supply and demand conditions for energy infrastructure globally.

On the Supply Side

- There shall be the need to re-engineer the ports to be able to receive supplies of hydrogen while for inland countries this would need building on the existing infrastructure like the natural gas pipelines.
- This has implications for governments which will need to develop a regulatory regime that encourages the deployment of low-carbon hydrogen at scale and in the right areas.¹⁰
- Launch the hydrogen trade’s dedicated shipping routes, globally.

On the Demand Side

- Countries need to set agendas for expanding the use of hydrogen in transport by using it to power cars, trucks and buses.
- This might need them to decide to what extent hydrogen and other renewables will coexist in the new matrix of renewable energy.
- It would also need them to recalibrate the role of natural gas as an inter-mediate fuel between fossil fuels and renewables.

Since the use of hydrogen is highly dependent on the quality of the infrastructure, (hydrogen leaks massively from pipelines and that makes it a very hazardous material to transport. This is because hydrogen is a tiny molecule that is difficult to contain for a carrier built with elements larger in the periodic table, like iron. So because of its lower energy density than carbon-based fuels it is relatively expensive to transport and store. The Energy Communique, it would seem, has prised open an enormous opportunity, on the theme of quality infrastructure. Tokyo for instance, has for a long time emphasised the role of quality infrastructure as an alternative to the variable quality of infrastructure expansion. Successive LDs have emphasised this aspect of infrastructure too. For instance, the Buenos Aires communique in its para on infrastructure, noted:

“Infrastructure is a key driver of economic prosperity, sustainable development... In line with the Roadmap, we look forward to progress in 2019 on quality infrastructure”¹¹ (emphasis added). Now the theme of quality infrastructure has stitched on an added layer of responsibility in the matter of energy. This means companies and governments have to become strategic about low-carbon hydrogen else “they (could) waste large sums of money and could make ambitious climate goals even harder to achieve.”¹²

Clearly the primacy given to hydrogen also means a possible swing away from the pre-eminent role of solar energy and within it that of photovoltaic cells in the global energy map of the future. The global market for PVs has been dominated substantially by China and to some extent Germany. In an early recognition of the possible role of hydrogen, the China's State Council announced in March this year plans to "promote the development and construction of fueling stations for hydrogen fuel-cell cars."¹³ Along with China, both Japan and the USA are also pushing for the large scale adoption of hydrogen fuel cell technologies. Tokyo has already released a Basic Hydrogen Policy, 2017, seeking to achieve cost parity of hydrogen with completing fuels.¹⁴

"In the past two decades, more than 200 projects have started operation to convert electricity and water into hydrogen to reduce emissions - from transport, natural gas use and industrial sectors - or to support the integration of renewables into the energy system. Expanding the use of clean hydrogen in other sectors such as cars, trucks, steel and heating buildings - is another important challenge. There are currently around 11,200 hydrogen-powered cars on the road worldwide. Existing government targets call for that number to increase dramatically to 2.5 million by 2030."¹⁵ This is where the support offered to that of Research and Development 20 agenda for a switch over to clean energy technologies (RD20) will become critical. For instance, it is very early days to even begin to estimate the change in business that a hydrogen based renewable energy sector could play in the world economy but certainly it will be important to measure the growing role. May be the first tray of changes would become visible through the offers made in the respective energy lending portfolios of multilateral institutions.

To understand how the pivot has swung away it is worth examining the language of Osaka which framed the discussion on renewables, in the context of cleaner technology (that could be coal) with development of "financial and business environment necessary to promote and support energy innovation" in the framework of a recognition "that fossil fuels still play a major role in the energy transitions". Compare this with Buenos Aires which went exactly in the opposite direction. It framed the same elements in a reverse set of phrases. "While it is important to acknowledge that fossil fuels still play a major role, we stress the need to successfully transform energy systems, by increasing investments in cleaner technologies, cooperation in energy efficiency and deployment of renewables and innovation". The difference is very easy to discern.

Not just hydrogen the Energy Communique underlined the scope of innovations on each aspect of energy. "We propose that international and regional organizations may:

- Collect innovation policy information of G20 members,
- Expand their analysis to better identify "innovation gaps" and actions that support energy transitions and help achieve a cleaner environment, and
- Report to the G20 on their findings.¹⁶

It is this global context of an innovation led energy economy with hydrogen and others that has spurred the G20 to offer a clear support to Research and Development 20 for clean energy technologies (RD20) proposed by Japan. Such support is all the more necessary to pursue an alternative to the linear path to a renewable energy led global equilibrium, for the foreseeable future. What this means as the chair explained is the launch of an international conference, Research and Development 20 for Clean

Energy Technologies (“RD20”) to promote international collaboration among leading R&D institutes in G20 members. That this aspect should find a mention in the Energy Communique means a possible swing away from the preeminent role of solar energy and within it that of photovoltaic cells in the global energy map of the future.

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11,200 hydrogen-powered cars on the road worldwide. Existing government targets call for that number to increase dramatically to 2.5 million by 2030.”²⁰ This is where the support offered to that of Research and Development 20 agenda for a switch over to clean energy technologies (RD20) will become critical. For instance, it is very early days to even begin to estimate the change in business that a hydrogen based renewable energy sector could play in the world economy but certainly it will be important to measure the growing role. May be the first tray of changes would become visible through the offers made in the respective energy lending portfolios of multilateral institutions.

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- Collect innovation policy information of G20 members,
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- Report to the G20 on their findings.²¹

This is also the context to read another takeaway from the Osaka Energy Communique—the emphasis placed on ensuring the safety of global navigation lines for transport of fuel. Such issues of conflict resolution among members is a new area for the G20 to fathom. In tandem with the other strain caused by the trade wars between USA and China, this was a response to the flash point between the USA and Iran in the Gulf waters. The operative section reads, “In light of recent events highlighting concern about safe flow of energy, we acknowledge the importance of global energy security as one of the guiding principles for the transformation of energy systems, including resilience, safety and development of infrastructure and

undisrupted flow of energy from various sources, suppliers, and routes”.

It is, however, unclear what role G20 as a primarily financial forum or even in its extended avatar of a trade forum, could and would perform if the difficulties in the sea routes expand. These are not trade disputes but primarily those of geopolitical in nature. The commentary also sets an unusual precedent since it opens the forum to comment on and seek a joint action on other political and military issues roiling the world. But concentration on the same could force the G20 into decisions that are often contradictory and worse may challenge the consensus based decision making which has characterised it. It could open the forum for grandstanding by leaders to talk to the world instead of using the opportunity to talk with each other which is what underscores the value of G20.²²

These conflicting challenges have coloured the G20's approach to the issue of climate change. Thus it is no surprise that on the larger question of energy transition, the Osaka LD takes on a muted role to cut down the space for Greenhouse gases (GHG) gas. Since the Buenos Aires declaration in 2018, just seven months have elapsed. But more proximate challenges have developed in the global arena. And that has led to an explicit recognition of the change in the definition of what energy transition would mean.

So while the Buenos Aires Energy Communique made all the references to “different possible national paths to achieve cleaner energy systems” including those of Energy Efficiency, of Energy Access and Affordability, and reaffirmed that fossil fuels will still play a major role, it closed out stressing on the “need to successfully transform energy systems, by increasing investments in cleaner technologies, cooperation in energy

efficiency and deployment of renewables and innovation”.

The Osaka Energy Communique is more a display of the differences among the key nations on the table. So the the ministerial meetings side-stepped extensive discussion of climate change issues joining the clause on it with that of “3E+S (Energy Security, Economic Efficiency, and Environment + Safety)”. The formulation of this mathematical sounding smorgasbord is a nod to the Japan government's plan for establishment of an optimum energy mix by 2030 that would restore Tokyo's energy self sufficiency to a level that was achieved before the Fukushima disaster. The self sufficiency plan is built of broadly of 24 per cent share of renewables, 20 to 22 per cent of nuclear, 27 per cent of LNG, 26 per cent of coal and only 3 per cent of oil.²³ This is in fact lower than India's envisaged energy mix of 48 per cent for coal and 15 per cent for gas and about 30 per cent for renewables by 2047.

Conclusion

These realisations of limitations in the switch over to renewables has carried over to the Leaders Declarations (LD) also. It is not as some commentators have noted an overhang of the US position solely, that that too has played a role. So while the LD managed to note the importance of implementing national pledges under the Paris climate agreement it did so with a caveat that such efforts concern those nations that supported the climate language at the G20 Buenos Aires Summit in 2018.²⁴ The hyphenation of energy concerns with renewable energy has been broken, at least in 2019. That the next G20 summit will be in Saudi Arabia seems that these differences in the energy pool of the world will carry over and may impact even the subsequent one in Italy. It will be upto India in 2022 to decide how far to claw back the

space for renewables during its presidency. However, given that investments in the energy sector are of long term and are likely to be established for the better part of next decade, the space from Osaka to New Delhi could be a most significant journey.

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T20 Japan

Think-Tank 20 (T20) has been an important engagement group of G20 which has contributed to the G20 Summit process significantly. Along with all important themes Japan Presidency has added two more task forces on Small and Medium Enterprises (SMEs) and population aging. T20 Japan Summit was held on 26-27 May, 2019 in Tokyo, Japan. Like previous summits, T20 Japan has produced innovative and evidence-based policy recommendations drawn from the work of 10 task forces aimed to address the traditional challenges of inequality, gender, climate change and poverty as well as emerging challenges of global migration, new technology, aging population and shifting of center of economic gravity to emerging economies.

T20 underscores actions on several fronts to expand the scope of contribution of G20 to global governance and development. Some of those recommendations are highlighted below:

Global solidarity is required towards universal health coverage by re-orienting and harmonizing development assistance to strengthen primary healthcare systems; ensuring equal parity between migrant and local workers; and harnessing and regulating health technologies at the global level.

Strengthening G20 commitment on transforming the education systems to provide quality education for all; boosting allocation of development finance through large institutional investors and national and international banks; building domestic capacity for mobilizing sector specific platforms for generating high-quality project proposals linked to national development plans is a priority.

Alternative mechanisms need to be created for science, technology and innovation cooperation to accelerate and incentivize technology transfer to developing countries and promote women empowerment.

Along with reviving WTO to promote free, fair and rule-based global trading system emphasis needs to be given to trade in services, developing infrastructure, restructuring Global Value Chains (GVCs) by addressing human capital development, regulatory and institutional barriers and protectionist sentiments in order to benefit from growing service orientation and digital revolution.

International financial architecture should be strengthened to ensure stability and development; modernize financial systems through Fintech Promotion and Crypto-Asset regulation, and transfer sustainable financing into mainstream finance.

Capacity building for developing countries is important to address climate mitigation and mobilizing private capital through low carbon transition fund and mainstreaming circular economy and society at global, regional, national and sub-national levels.

An integrated approach is to be adopted to develop quality infrastructure through land trusts and by tapping spill-over effects boosting long-term returns; promote upstream planning that fully incorporates social and environmental risks and costs into development plan for quality infrastructure; and further developing a strategy for enhancing resilient infrastructure development.

Thrust should be on adopting a unified approach towards macroeconomic stability by attaining fiscal and debt sustainability and strengthening domestic resource mobilization; enhancing alignment of actors and tools to facilitate employment-led growth, ensuring resilient food systems and sustainable development; developing regional regulatory institution to ensure economic integration without prohibiting African SMEs.

Lifelong learning is to be promoted through skilling, reskilling and upskilling of workers, digital literacy and addressing digital divide.

An ecosystem for entrepreneurship can be developed for promoting start-ups and business transfers; emphasis on constructing a database to link SMEs with other firms to improve the accessibility via use of digital technologies.

To facilitate the fiscal institute to be more sustainable from the effect of aging population, structural reforms that promote investment in human and physical capital are required to improve the productivity and adaptability of societies; reform tax systems to keeping in view the demographic transition; re-orient social protection system towards poverty alleviation and wealth accumulation; and boost the development of financial products which can support the needs of vulnerable groups.

B20 Japan

Business 20 (B20) is the forum that represents the voice of the businesses in G20 and provides inputs to the G20 Summits. For G20 Japan Summit, the B20 Japan Summit was held on 15 March, 2019 on the theme “Society 5.0 for SDGs”. As the title of the summit suggests, the overall recommendations of B20 Japan hovered around policy actions which would lead to the achievement of SDGs. In that paradigm, the social transformation that would create enabling conditions and help achieve the SDGs has been envisaged in the form of Society 5.0 Agenda. In general, B20 recommendations covered seven pillars such as (1) Digital Transformation for All, (2) Trade and Investment for All, (3) Energy and Environment for All, (4) Quality Infrastructure for All, (5) Future of Work for All, (6) Health and Human Being for All, and (7) Integrity for All which in its entirety constitute the future roadmap for an evolving G20.

B20 Japan stressed the need for continuation of some of the existing initiatives of G20 including the G20 Initiative on Supporting Industrialisation in Africa (initiated during Chinese Presidency), Compact with Africa (initiated during German Presidency), G20 Food Security and Nutrition Framework (initiated during Argentina Presidency) and Global Infrastructure Connectivity Alliance. Although the B20 Japan had based its recommendations on seven different pillars, certain sectors were clearly given emphasis. In the technology domain, digital technologies attracted maximum attention particularly on issues of industrial innovation, harnessing human creativity, use of big data and management and digital taxation. In the sphere of trade and investment, the inclusion of new trade issues such as e-commerce, government procurement, intellectual property rights, etc. in WTO trade negotiations was endorsed. Likewise, promotion and strengthening of Micro, Small and Medium Enterprises (MSMEs) has been identified as the trigger for industrial growth enabled by application of new digital technologies. In the social sphere, the areas that need focussed attention are digital education, universal health coverage, ageing, smart cities, food & nutrition, clean and renewable energy solutions, etc.

Digital technologies such as Internet of Things (IoT), 5G, Big Data, Cloud Computing, Artificial Intelligence (AI), robotics, Blockchain assumed highest priority in the B20 development vision for the world. B20 group recommended prioritising connectivity and digital infrastructure. In this context, major recommendations include development of policy framework for proper utilisation of technology and data. These can be done through data governance framework, realising WTO ruling on electronic commerce, multilateral consensus on digital taxation. Further, emphasis was given to promote international cooperation in the field of cybersecurity, facilitate widespread dissemination of digital technologies; enhance social adoption, promote utilisation of AI and launch real world projects.

G20 should encourage establishing a common understanding of the effects and benefits of trade, better communication on trade and investment issue. Major recommendation in this context, was the reform of the WTO by improving the dispute settlement system; rule-based decision making and monitoring mechanism; institutionalised consultation mechanism between WTO and multi-stakeholders; strengthen international rules; avoid fragmentation of financial markets; support MSMEs integration into GVCs; establish comprehensive and high-standards FTAs; promote cross border investment, and facilitate investment and improve international regulatory cooperation.

B20 group urges the member countries to include business as a key actor and source of experience, advice and resources in tackling climate change along with increasing competitiveness and create jobs. There is a need to facilitate the global dialogue and collaborate to establish a sound Material-Cycle Society by promoting proper waste management, value retention and efficient resource mobilization including recovery and innovation.

The B20 also recommended effective mobilisation of financial resources including institutional investors through a significant enhancement of project preparation and post implementation analysis. The multilateral development banks (MDBs) and public financial institutions can promote products and mitigate risks. A proper ecosystem should be developed for quality infrastructure by undertaking proper policy measures in alignment with development strategies.

To achieve SDG 8, the future of work creates opportunities for all and need sustainable labour market. The B20 platform advocated innovation-friendly framework for digital trade for creating employment. Making labour market inclusive, open and dynamic by enhancing flexibility of the legislation and focus on formalisation would create more diverse work for the society. The Group stressed on sharing the best practices in upskilling/reskilling and enhancing the access to learning.

In the health domain, the major recommendation was to promote digitalisation to achieve better health outcomes through efficient and effective utilization of data. B20 members endorsed the effort of G20 on universal health coverage via multi-sectoral engagement and emphasises on improving cost-effectiveness of healthcare services. Moreover, G20 should rise as a platform to enhance cross-country collaboration in order to ensure pandemic preparedness and response to minimise risks. Due to rise of ageing population G20 should take measures towards efficient management to address the issue of aging society such as reducing healthcare costs and waste in order to secure sustainability.

Integrity for all emphasises on anti-corruption declaration, transparency in public procurement, rebuilding trust in institutions fostering the highest standards of ethics, integrity and compliance for both demand and supply sides. Finally, it is imperative to enhance culture of integrity in business through education and promote business to adopt a compliance culture within their companies.

C20 Japan

Civil 20 (C20) represents the Civil Society Organisations (CSOs) in the G20 countries. As CSOs work for the most vulnerable and marginalized section of the society, it is important G20 to reflect upon the voices and recommendations of the CSOs. In the run up to the G20 Japan Summit, more than 400 CSOs across the world had participated in the C20 meeting on 21 April, 2019. The philosophy of “leaving no one behind” underpinned the C20 recommendations in 2019. There were ten working groups for C20 Japan which includes working groups on anti-corruption, education, gender, health, infrastructure, international financial architecture, environment & climate change, trade & investment, labour, business & human rights and local2Global.

Firstly, C20 realized the urgency of implementing current and all previous recommendations within a defined time frame. Most importantly, SDG-16 would be an overarching permanent, global and cross-cutting priority goal at the UN High Level Political Forum on Sustainable Development. C20 emphasizes on strengthening the civic space in Asian countries; ease up policy regulations on CSOs; solidarity and partnership with government particularly for financial support; respect internationally agreed human rights standards; engage women in all aspects of peace process and fulfilled the promises of SDG-5; and introduce stricter laws and rules to eliminate discrimination and gender-based violence against women and Lesbian, Gay, Bisexual, Transgender, Queer Intersex, (LGBTQI) people.

Further, C20 advocated for strengthening adequate legislative, administrative and social measures to increase accountability and integrity. G20 members should work together to combat corruption and ensure that financial laws and practices facilitate the environment for CSOs to operate freely and assess the mechanism of bank de-risking on non-profit organization. Like other engagement groups like T20 and B20, C20 working groups has also given emphasis on digitalization and recommended to develop strong regulations for science and technology and design a transitional policy, which includes re-training, skilling and promote to use data collectively for sharing the benefits of new technologies. Further, CSO groups show zero level of tolerance to violence against children which is fundamental for peaceful society and urge the G20 members to show leadership in addressing such common challenges through intense actions to end violence against children.



IMPORTANT NEWS

PM Abe's Diplomacy at Osaka G20 Summit

Prime Minister Abe hosted the G20 summit with some priorities like strengthening free and fair-trading system; regulating the cross-border transformation of data; and utilising the technology for tackling climate change and environmental issues. In light of US-China trade pressure, Osaka also followed the trend set by Buenos Aires of not resisting protectionism. The Japanese Prime Minister was keen to regulate data and harness the full potential of data worldwide. In one of his speeches in May 2019, he raised concerns over climate change following which it was expected that G20 Osaka would take more robust actions. In any case, the G20 communique has embraced Japan's stand on green economy.

Source: *Hurst, Daniel (2019), "Did Japan Get What it Wanted from the Osaka G20 Summit", The Diplomat, available at < <https://bit.ly/2YfpS1Q> >*

Long Way towards G20 Compact Africa

It was evident in the previous summit as well as in Osaka that G20 leaders treat Africa exclusively as a 'development problem' and exclude them as an equal participant from deliberations about climate change. South Africa is the only country representing Africa and trying to drive the Africa Case at the G20 with limited success. However, Africa is not the only region that is under-represented in G20. The Compact with Africa Initiative started in German Presidency with a proposal of individual countries to enter into compacts with individual G20 States to raise private sector investment in the former. But after two years only 12 African countries are part of the Compact with no representation from Central and Southern Africa.

Source: *Fabricius, Peter (2019), "G20 Compact with Africa is a Long Game", IPP Media, available at < <https://bit.ly/2yussSh> >*

SDGs and G20

G20 Declaration covered three themes to stabilize global growth and focused on disaster risk reduction, health, education, women empowerment, energy, quality infrastructure, climate change and marine plastic debris. At the Ministerial meeting on Energy Transitions and Global Environment held on 15-16 June, 2019 in Karuizawa, Japan, the Ministers adopted the 'G20 Implementation Framework for Actions on Marine Plastic Litter' that aims to promote comprehensive life-cycle approach as Prime Minister Abe had identified marine plastic waste as a key priority for Japan's G20 Presidency.

Sources: *Wahlen, C. Benson (2019), "Japan Presents SDG Action Plan at G20 Meetings", SDG Knowledge Hub News (Online), available at < <https://bit.ly/32Ywgtb>>*

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Osaka Track: Undermined the WTO Principles of Consensus-based Decisions

It was reported that India, South Africa and Indonesia had boycotted the "Osaka Track" on the "digital economy" as it clearly undermined "multilateral" principle of consensus-based decision making in global trade negotiations, and limited the policy space for digital-industrialization in developing countries. On 26 June 2019, Tokyo circulated a "take-it-or leave it" text on digital trade to all the G20 countries and seeking approval for promoting plurilateral negotiations among 50 countries, although negotiations on digital trade has not been approved by the WTO as part of global trade negotiations.

Source: Kanth, D.Ravi (2019), "India Boycotts 'Osaka Track' at G20 summit". Live mint, 30 June, 2019, available at <<https://bit.ly/2OLNs9>>

Does the G20 Still Matter?

After the financial crisis, G20 has emerged as a forum for international coordination and the initial achievements were applaudable for crafting common solutions to global problem. Famous economist Jim O'Neill, known for coining BRIC, conveys his concern over G20 functioning and listed two barriers in the way of G20. He pointed out that G20 representation is far too large and at present the forum lacks an objective framework to achieve the set targets and goals, and measure progress towards them. It seems now that the agenda of G20 is fluid with each host country ensures some new issues getting added at every annual gathering. Progress of the previously raised issue (like antimicrobial resistance) remains unanswered.

Source: Neill, O'Jim (2019), "Does the G20 Still matter?", *Hindustan Times*, 12 July, 2109, available at < <https://bit.ly/2YDMUek>>

Restart of US-China Trade Talk

The US-China negotiators met in Shanghai on 30th July, 2019 to revive trade talks and emphasized on drawing attention towards rebuilding trust to kick-start the trade negotiations - following a truce agreed between Trump and Xi Jinping at the G20 Summit in June 2019. The two-day talks led by US trade representative Robert Lighthizer and Treasury Secretary Steven Mnuchin. Before the Shanghai meeting, US threatened to pull China's developing country status at WTO. The Chinese State news agency Xinhua admitted the 'strained' relations and called to 'treat China with due respect if it wants a trade deal'.

Source: CAN (2019), "China-US Trade Talks to Restart after G20 Tariff Truce", *Channel News Asia*, 30 July, 2019, available at < <https://bit.ly/2LRuh13>>

US-China Trade War and Indian Agenda at G20

The ranks of sceptics who had questioned the G20's role, are thinning. G20 seems the only forum where Donald Trump and Xi Jinping meet face to face as equals instead of letting their aides fight. Osaka could, therefore, be remembered for decades as the summit where they made peace or set the world on a disastrous economic path. It remains the only forum to provide the broad global political directions that would not have been available otherwise. And it is how these meetings are arranged that often decides what finally gets said.

Source: Bhattacharjee, Subhomoy (2019), "Taxing Digital Imports: US-China Trade War, G-20 may Strymie India Agenda", *Business Standard*, 26 June, 2019, available at <<https://mybs.in/2X6tH0G>>

About G20 Digest

In less than 36 months, India shall play host to the G20 summit. Since G20 Summits are watched worldwide with interest and suspicion, India's Presidency in 2022 would be important, at least for the developing countries. Unlike the first few summits, Annual leaders' summits of G20 now encapsulate a vast array of issues beyond the financial sector; each has the potential to impact the world in a substantial measure. Each presidency has thrown new issues along with the common ones that bind the grouping together. In view of the diversity of issues taken up in G20 platform, it is imperative to study and assess current functioning of G20 and its future roadmap. RIS plans to begin a journey to this process through this publication in order to gather the views, opinions and scholarly research. In successive issues of 'G20 Digest' we shall bring the thought leaders in various sectors to comment on each of the themes through articles, interviews and commentaries, besides offering a snapshot of current news about the G20 summits and related themes. The Digest will thus hopefully become an essential component of the G20 Delhi Agenda in all its multifarious aspects. Naturally, comments from our readers will be most valuable to guide this publication on its journey.

Guidelines for Submissions

- *G20 Digest* is a peer-reviewed journal dedicated to the issues and subject matters relating to G20 and its broader linkages to global governance, functioning of multilateral institutions, role of emerging markets, and larger development interests of the people.
- Scholarly articles on various topics of interest to G20 are invited from academics, policy makers, diplomats, practitioners and students. The articles may cover the whole range of issues including role and effectiveness of G20, functioning of G20, coverage of sectors, G20 and global governance, G20 and global financial stability, and similar topics.
- Original manuscripts not exceeding 4000 words prepared in MS Word using double space with a 100 word abstract and three key words may be sent to editorG20digest@ris.org.in.
- The submitted articles must follow APA referencing style.
- All numbers below 10 should be spelt out in words such as 'five' 'eight', etc.
- Percentage should be marked as 'per cent', not '%'.
• For numeric expressions, use international units such as 'thousands', 'millions', 'billions', not 'lakh' and 'crore'.
- For time periods, use the format '2000-2008', not '2000-08'.
- Mere submission of an article does not guarantee its publication in the journal.



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