

MAY 9–22, 2023

Highlights from this issue of G20 India Diaries:

- The Third G20 Development Working Group meeting, held May 9–11 in Goa, deliberated on the action plan to accelerate progress on SDGs.
- The T20 Engagement Group, held May 10–12 in Mumbai, agreed on the importance of governments to have stakeholder buy-in for responsible digital public infrastructure.
- A policy brief from the T20 Engagement Group's Task Force 6 provided a roadmap to integrate the digital healthcare infrastructure for affordable, equitable, and universal access.
- The G20 Energy Transitions Working Group, held May 15–17 in Mumbai, discussed the importance of access to finance for scale-up and implementation of critical and emerging technologies, such as battery storage and green hydrogen.

Third G20 Development Working Group meeting discusses inputs to Ministerial Document

May 9–11: The third meeting of the G20 Development Working Group (DWG) was held in the state of Goa. Representatives discussed the action plans which are likely to feed into the Development Ministerial Meeting in June. The Ministerial Document, the DWG's key deliverable, seeks to find all-encompassing, inclusive solutions and collective actions to address diverse global development challenges.



Over the three-day conference, experts and participants also deliberated on a G20 action plan to accelerate progress on the Sustainable Development Goals (SDGs) and the G20 high-level principles on Lifestyle for Environment to provide the necessary political thrust and momentum to the efforts for achieving the 2030 Agenda.

The technical session discussed the five-point DWG agenda for which the action plan will be developed. These are accelerating progress on Sustainable Development Goals, Lifestyle for Environment (LiFE), Digital Principles and Capacity Building for Data for Development, Green Transitions that are Globally Just, and Women-led Development. The session also discussed enhancing international coordination and partnerships.

Side events focusing on women-centric issues were also organized. Participants included several high-profile experts and speakers from international organizations like the OECD, UNICEF, and the UN. Experts from academia, think tanks, and civil society also deliberated on matters such as women and economy in emerging sectors, women's leadership in the uniformed services, and how women can act as agents of change in climate resilience and food systems. Over 80 delegates from G20 member countries and nine invitee countries attended the meeting.

T20 Engagement Group's Mid-Year Conference lays the groundwork for communique to G20 leadership

May 10–12: The Think20 (T20) Engagement Group held its Mid-Year Conference in Mumbai as a precursor and bridge event to the final T20 Summit, which will take place in August. The conference provided a platform for experts and policymakers to exchange ideas and collaborate on solutions to global challenges. It featured discussions related to health, green growth, technology for development, reformed multilateralism, gender and its interplay with green transitions, and the future of work.

Takeaways from the mid-year conference will form the basis of the T20 Communique which will be presented to the G20 global leadership.

Experts from global think tanks, academia, industry, and governments participated in panel discussions. Panelists agreed that for responsible digital public infrastructure (DPI) it is important for governments to have stakeholder buy-in to avoid piecemeal fragmented efforts. The success of India's DPIs was a talking point as experts discussed how they have been instrumental in solving many challenges and how AI and other emerging disruptive technologies (EDTs) are currently being used to overcome challenges in other parts of the world.

In another panel discussion on Leveraging G20 and COP28 for People-Centric Energy Transitions, the participants discussed the role of G20. Experts were of the view that the group must establish strong transparency and accountability mechanisms on climate finance commitments of the developed world. The panel agreed that India's G20 Presidency is an opportune moment to spearhead collective action and drive international cooperation towards mitigating climate change and set the ambition for COP28.

New formats for cooperation on SDGs in the G20 and the Global South was another topic in a panel discussion. It focused on the impact of food insecurity, inflation, and the pandemic on SDGs and the need to look at key transformative interventions like mobilization of development finance and reform of international systems.

T20 Task Force 6 prepares policy brief for universal digital access to inclusive healthcare

The Think 20 (T20) Engagement Group's Task Force 6 on Accelerating SDGs has produced a policy brief on improving healthcare with digital access. The policy brief provides a roadmap to integrate the digital healthcare infrastructure for affordable, equitable, and universal access.

The researchers have argued that the G20 can play a key role in addressing the challenge of providing universal digital access to inclusive healthcare by establishing a committee to set an agenda for: (a) research, policy, and practice, and (b) translation of research to policy to practice through feedback and learning. The paper has claimed that at present, there is no similar unified framework or concerted effort to address the challenge and provide a roadmap.

It has recommended that the success in providing universal digital access to inclusive healthcare will depend on its governance locally, nationally, and globally by the proposed committees. In addition to formulating policies, governance must include the mission of generating knowledge and applying it through formal research and assessment of policies and practices. It must be aligned and integrated with the country's digital health mission, and utilize the ecosystem created by such a mission effectively. Each country must develop an ongoing learning system with feedback to guide the trajectory of universal digital access to inclusive healthcare.

G20 Energy Transitions Working Group moots a multipronged approach to address challenges in clean energy shift

May 15–17: The Third Energy Transitions Working Group Meeting (ETWG) under India's G20 Presidency was held in Mumbai. During the conference, policymakers, multilateral organizations, financial institutions, business organizations, and subject matter experts stressed a multipronged approach to address key challenges in energy transition.

Experts were of the opinion that while the government can play an important role in setting policies and regulations, financial institutions also play an important role in providing funding and investment opportunities. The session saw suggestions from corporations leading the transformation by adopting sustainable practices and investing more in renewable energy sources.

There was consensus that multilateral organizations can do more in providing technical and financial assistance to developing nations to quicken the pace of transition in the Global South. During the three-day meeting, participants held detailed discussions on the draft Ministerial Communique. It is expected that agreement and understanding among member countries will help in advancing the cause of global cooperation in clean energy transition.

A workshop with multilateral development banks (MDBs) with the aim of mobilizing low-cost international finance was also conducted. The discussions focused on ensuring access to finance to countries for enabling the scale-up and implementation of critical and emerging technologies such as battery storage, green hydrogen, offshore wind, bioenergy, and carbon capture utilization.

The conference was attended by over 100 delegates from G20 member countries, special invitee countries and international organizations such as International Energy Agency (IEA) and United Nations Environment Program (UNEP).

Upcoming Events

- ◆ **May 23–25, 2023:** 2nd Trade & Investment Working Group Meeting, Bengaluru
- ◆ **May 24, 2023:** B20-CII Annual Session, New Delhi
- ◆ **June 4–6, 2023:** G20-3rd Health Working Group meeting, Hyderabad

The Group of Twenty (G20) is the premier forum for international economic cooperation. It plays an important role in shaping and strengthening global architecture and governance on major international economic issues. The G20 Presidency is with India from December 1, 2022, to November 30, 2023, and it is hosting a series of events aligned with the agenda and themes of the G20 in the run-up to the two-day summit scheduled to be held in New Delhi starting September 9, 2023.

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To learn more about the G20 India Presidency, please visit edelmanglobaladvisory.com, or reach out to Anand.Patel@EdelmanEGA.com.