



INFO PACK

G20 Argentina: Cooperation in an Era of Isolationism

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Introduction: The Group of Twenty (G20)

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he G20 is an international forum for the governments and heads of central banks of the world's major economies where senior officials and policymakers come together to discuss international economic issues as well other issues of global significance such as migration, development and poverty.

The G20 consists of 19 countries and the European Union. The member countries are Argentina, Australia, Brazil, Canada, China, Germany, France, India, Indonesia, Italy, Japan, Mexico, Russia, Saudi Arabia, South Africa, South Korea, Turkey, the United Kingdom and the United States, with the European Commission and the European Central Bank represent the EU.

Argentina, which currently holds the rotating presidency of the G20, will be hosting this year's summit under the theme, "Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development".

The annual G20 Leaders' Summit will be held this year in Buenos Aires, Argentina from November 30th to December 1st. A leaders' declaration will be delivered after a series of meetings.

Considered together, G20 countries account for the 85% of the world GDP, 80% of global investments, and 75% of the global trade. Member countries also represent 66%

of the world population while covering half of the land surface of the globe. Given the broadness of the G20's scope, whatever is discussed at the summit will have a worldwide impact.

Unlike the G7, the G20 has a more inclusive structure, and with its collective capacity has much more influence in addressing issues that do not fall under the responsibility of any one organization or country. The inclusion of emerging economies such as China, Russia, Turkey and India as equal members along with the major industrialised countries in the policy making process has allowed the former to contribute to the conduct of the global economy and beyond.

The attendance of international organizations such as the IMF, the World Bank and select non-member countries, as well as civil society representatives into the policy making process make the G20 platform one of the more comprehensive international forums.

This info pack gives a detailed account of how G20 was established and how it works. It also outlines issues that will be discussed as part of the G20 Argentina agenda as well as the current global issues such as trade wars and isolationism. The info pack also presents Turkey's profile in G20 and the international arena as a case to better show the impact of G20 on its members. The Turkish case also demonstrates the importance of emerging powers in protecting multilateralism, which the G20 promotes.



G20 Germany Leaders' Summit held in Hamburg on July 07, 2017. (Kayhan Ozer - AA)

How Was It Established?

Global economic crises played a significant role in the emergence of the G20 and the expansion of the organization's aims and issue areas. The G20 was established in 1999 after a meeting of finance ministers and central bank governors of G7 countries in response to the economic crises of 1990s. Its influence increased following the inaugural G20 leaders meeting held in 2008, which was held in order to find a solution to the global financial crisis of 2008 by replacing the G8 as the primary economic platform of the world's major economies.

The late 1990s witnessed a series of major economic crises, particularly affecting emerging economies, culminating in a series of global economic crises. In 1994, the Mexican peso dramatically devaluated against the US dollar, igniting a capital flight, which led to hyperinflation of around 52%, causing, among other things, a wave of mortgage defaults. This led to the collapse of the Mexican financial system followed by increased unemployment and recession. The effects of the Mexican peso crisis influenced the Asian and Latin American markets, which themselves experienced financial crises. Developed economies in Europe and the US were also severely affected by the resulting economic instability.



President Erdoğan and President Trump at G20 Germany (Kayhan Özer - AA)

In 1997, beginning with the collapse of the Thai baht, East Asian countries experienced a rapid slump of their currencies after the crisis spread. Thailand, South Korea and Indonesia were among the countries that were most affected, leading to a sharp increase in their respective debt to GDP ratios. The financial instability in the region increased anxieties over the possibility of a global economic crisis. As countries started recovering, the importance of ensuring financial stability and improving supervisory mechanisms became a priority for policy makers all over the world.

The following year, in 1998, Russia experienced a severe financial crisis that led to the devaluation of Russian rouble, default on domestic debt and delay of the repayment of foreign debt. The Asian financial crisis of 1997 along with a

decline in the demand for crude oil played significant role in sparking the Russian financial crisis. The inflation rate peaked at 84 % and several Russian banks were bankrupted. It had also region wide impact, particularly on neighbouring economies.

Against this backdrop, developed countries came to the understanding that the interconnected nature of the global economy, the contagion effect of economic crises threaten not only the particular country or region in question, but ultimately the whole world. Additionally, the economic turmoil of late 1990s demonstrated that the Bretton Woods system and its institutions such as World Bank, IMF and World Trade Organisation and organisations like G7 and G8 were falling short of providing global financial stability, sustaining sovereign debt and preventing occurrences of economic crisis.

In addition to this, the rise of the global south and the emergence of regional powers had already led to the questioning of the existing global economic mechanisms on the grounds that they were not reflecting the current realities of the world. Emerging powers were asking for their due share of responsibility and say in the conduct of, not only economic affairs, but global political affairs as well. With this in mind, G7 countries invited other leading and emerging economies in order to have more effective platform to address global economic issues and to discuss policy pertaining to the promotion of international financial stability.

The 2008 financial crisis came as global shock that proved the need for a new mechanism supported by highest-level political will and action. As such, the first leaders' summit of G20 was held in 2008 with the attendance of head of states or governments of respective countries. It has continued to be conveyed periodically since, alongside separate meetings of finance and foreign ministers.

The G20's initial focus on purely economic and financial issues has shifted over time as the forum has gained in prominence. Over time, the G20's agenda has come to include a range of economic and political affairs of global significance.

After the announcement of the UN Sustainable Development Goals and the signing of the Paris Agreement on climate change, more issues of global significance began appearing in the G20 agenda including migration, unemployment, healthcare, women's empowerment and development assistance. The main focus of the summit however, has remained centred on global economic growth, international trade and financial market regulation.

How Does the G20 Work?

Throughout the year, a series of meetings are held in accordance with the G20's yearly agenda. Relevant parties from each member state, including ministers, foreign ministry emissaries and central bank governors, attend these meetings. The recommendations and policy initiative discussed in these meetings take final shape in the Leaders' Summit and are announced as a joint declaration.

The presidency of the G20 rotates annually among its members. Since the Group does not have a headquarters and permanent staff, every year the country that holds the presidency forms a temporary secretariat to undertake organizational tasks such as arranging meetings and coordinating working groups as well as taking a leading role in agenda setting.

In order to sustain continuity and consistency, a system called 'troika' is designed where three countries -previous, present and future presidency holders, work in close cooperation and dialogue with one another. Germany, Argentina and Japan constituted this year's troika since Germany held the presidency last year while Japan will hold its next year.

In order to increase its scope and diversify its agenda, the G20 invites non-member countries as guests to the various meetings held throughout the year. Spain, for example, has the status of a permanent invited guest, therefore attending every year as a guest. Additionally, the country holding the G20 presidency has the discretion to invite one or more countries as guests. This year Argentina has invited Chile and the Netherlands to the G20 meetings.

In addition to the state level participation, the G20 is open to the international organizations. Organizations like the UN, IMF and WB are regularly invited to the meetings in order to widen the group's impact and to ensure that it reflects a truly global agenda. Additionally, key regional groups such as the New Partnership for Africa's Development (NEPAD), the African Union (AU) and the Association for Southeast Asian Nations (ASEAN) are generally invited to the G20. This year ASEAN will be represented by Singapore, the AU will be represented by Rwanda and NEPAD by Senegal. Argentina has also invited the Caribbean Community (CARICOM), which is represented by Jamaica.

The G20 also organizes engagement group meetings attended by civil society representatives of each member state. The purpose of holding engagement group meetings is to widen the scope and impact of the G20 and allow a variety of perspectives, opinions and discussions on issues of global governance. Each engagement group holds separate meetings to discuss their respective issue areas and provide policy recommendations on pressing global issues prior to the Leaders' Summit.

The G20 has two working tracks:

The Finance Track:

- Primary focus is on global economic and financial issues such as monetary, fiscal and exchange rate policies, infrastructure investment, financial regulation, financial inclusion and international taxation.
- Meetings of finance ministers and central bank governors and their deputies are held throughout the year.

The Sherpa track:

- The primary focus is on broader issues such as political engagement, anti-corruption, development, trade, energy and climate change, gender equality, etc.
- Each member country attends these meetings with their respective ministers and emissaries.



G20 Turkey Leaders' Summit in Antalya (Kayhan Özer - AA)

G20 COUNTRIES

Canada
GDP (PPP) 1.77 trillion
GDP Ranking 17
Population 37 million

European Union
GDP (PPP) 20.98 trillion
Population 512 million

United States
GDP (PPP) 19.39 trillion
GDP Ranking 2
Population 324 million

Mexico
GDP (PPP) 2.46 trillion
GDP Ranking 11
Population 129 million

Brazil
GDP (PPP) 3.24 trillion
GDP Ranking 8
Population 209 million

Argentina
GDP (PPP) 0.92 trillion
GDP Ranking 27
Population 44 million

Although Argentina and South Africa are not among the top 20 economies, they were invited to the G20 in order to widen the representation of their respective regions in the forum.



G20 ENGAGEMENT GROUPS

■ Business 20 (B20)



The Business 20 consists of over 100 private business representatives who come together to discuss the concerns of the business sector. The issue areas include sustainable growth and development, as well as

trade and investment. Each member state and invited countries are represented in the group. After a series of discussions and consultation meetings, the Business 20 group submits their policy recommendations prior to the start of the summit. The group also provides policy prescriptions regarding new global challenges such as food accessibility, and the new industrial revolution.

■ Civil 20 (C20)



The Civil 20 provides civil society organizations from around the world with a platform to make contributions to the G20 agenda through their policy recommendations regarding issues pertaining to their respective

societies. The group endeavours to represent the voices of civil society as distinct from those of governments and private business. Some of the issues that are on the agenda for this year's C20 meetings include anti-corruption measures, education, employment and inclusion, environment, energy and climate and global health. Reflecting the structure of the G20 itself, the C20 engagement group does not have a permanent secretariat or headquarters and its presidency rotates annually.

■ Labour 20 (L20)



The Labour 20 represents the perspectives and interests of workers around the world at the G20. It consists of trade and labour union representatives and is convened by the International Trade Union

Confederation (ITUC) and Trade Union Advisory Committee (TUAC) to the OECD. L20 was first convened unofficially in 2008 after the financial crisis, becoming official in 2011. L20 is aimed at providing inputs regarding employment and growth to the government level discussions. They also work hand in hand with the other engagement groups such as B20, C20 and Y20 as well as respective ministries such as Finance and Labour. The L20 has consistently pressed issues such as the creation of quality jobs, the formalisation of work through minimum wages, labour rights and social protection, sustainable, green and inclusive growth, fair income distribution, re-regulation of the financial sector, and the implementation of G20 past and future commitments.

■ Science 20 (S20)



The Science 20 consists of members of the scientific community from across the world and deals with issues pertaining to the scientific topics in the G20 agenda. Global health was

chosen as the topic for discussion in the first meeting. In their latest communique, S20 submitted a proposal regarding the challenges and opportunities in food and nutrition security. The communique highlighted the importance of taking a food systems perspective to deliver health and wellbeing, efficient and sustainable food production, and recent scientific advances in the biosciences and other disciplines among others.

■ Think 20 (T20)



The Think 20 is aimed at providing evidence-based public policy proposals to the global agenda of the G20. Experts from relevant fields and think tanks take part in drafting the policy recommendations of T20. For

the G20 Argentina, the T20 has focused on the issue areas of future of work and education in the digital age, climate action and infrastructure for development, food security and sustainable agriculture, gender economic equity, cooperation with Africa, the 2030 agenda for sustainable development, trade, investment and tax cooperation, social cohesion, global governance, and the future of politics.

■ Women 20 (W20)



The Women 20 consists of women's organisations from civil society and female entrepreneurs from around the world. The group aims at providing concrete policy proposals to empower the

economic development of women. W20 covers issues pertaining to the difficulties faced by women across the world. These include the full economic and social participation of women, and women's inclusion in financial matters and education. The W20 aims at a reduction of 25% in the gap in the political participation rates between men and women in G20 countries and at bringing more than 100 million women to the workforce.

■ Youth 20 (Y20)



The Youth 20 consists of young leaders from across the world in order to discuss and find solutions to the problems facing the youth of today. This year, over 80 young leaders have been participating in the workings of Y20. Under this

year's theme of "future work", the Y20 is focusing on sustainable development, education and skills for the 21st century, future of work, entrepreneurship and self-employment. The Y20 also works to craft projects that will establish the foundation of a "Social Innovation Warehouse" that will collect implementable public policies related to youth.

G20 Argentina Agenda Priorities

Under the theme of “Building Consensus for Fair and Sustainable Development”, G20 Argentina will prioritize the issues of development, and fairness and sustainability in the G20 agenda. The discussions this year revolve around the following questions:

- **What is dialogue without consensus?**
- **What is power without fairness?**
- **What is development without sustainability?**

With the belief that international cooperation can be achieved only through consensual approach, Argentina aims to draw attention to collaborating with a sense of fairness, equality and true partnership. Additionally, the rules of the international system should be based on the principle of fairness, which is a prerequisite for enduring global agreements. As to the sustainability, it is of the utmost importance to implement policies that will achieve economic, social and environmental goals. Therefore, the central objective of the G20 Argentina is to find the means to achieve fair and sustainable growth as the foundation of development. As this year's holder of the G20 Presidency, Argentina has determined three issue areas under this theme. These are the future of work, infrastructure for development, and a sustainable food future.

The future of work: Unleashing peoples' potential

Rapid transformation of production processes thanks to technological advancement has led to not only the emergence of new job types, but also to challenges that threaten the previous, more established forms of employment. In addition to potential benefits, this shift carries the risk of exclusion and social disintegration, which requires well-planned employment, welfare and education policies. Since this is a global phenomenon, the application of policies should be coordinated internationally in order to ensure technological gaps and the resulting inequality among countries is minimised.

With this rationale, this year's Leaders' Summit in Argentina will focus on how to create more and better jobs in an age of technological innovation. Education is the first priority in addressing the potential challenges. Considering the importance of the acquisition of the necessary training in order to develop the skills needed to use emerging technologies, an inclusive education policy should be developed to ensure that everyone has access to tools to develop their full potential.



THIRD MEETING OF FINANCE MINISTERS AND CENTRAL BANK GOVERNORS

21 - 22 July / Buenos Aires, Argentina

Finance Ministers and Central Bank Governors in Buenos Aires as part of G20 Argentina in July 2018 (Mehmet Acar - AA)



(Source: AA)

Infrastructure for development: Mobilizing private resources to reduce the infrastructure deficit

Given the importance of infrastructure for development and growth, problems and challenges relating to the development of infrastructure should be addressed in order to seize the opportunities of future. Current levels of investment in infrastructure is far less than what is required to achieve sustainable growth. In order to reduce this gap, the ability to channel private investment plays an important role. In this regard, Argentina is prioritising development infrastructure as an asset class that covers better project preparation, improved funding and better data management. Investment in infrastructure, therefore, contributes to the future by using today's savings for the future public transportation, sanitation, energy flows and communications.

A sustainable food future: Improving soils and increasing productivity

With the increasing world population, food security has become an important component of peace, security and development in the world. In order to meet the food needs of the world, sustainable agriculture should be addressed. Because of the misuse of the soil, the available land for food production has decreased causing damage to the ecosystem and threatening



(Orhan Akkanat - AA)

the food security, particularly in developing countries. Considering the fact that G20 countries hold the majority of the food production capacity, they have the potential as well as responsibility to address this issue in a sustainable fashion. The G20 can lead the process by increasing cooperation among countries and between the public and private sectors.

Trade Wars: Trade restrictions and isolationism

The increasing prevalence of trade wars is one of the fundamental issue regarding the global economy today. US President Donald Trump started a trade war with China by imposing tariffs on Chinese imports, prompting Beijing to respond in kind by imposing tariffs of their own. Washington argues that the trade imbalance between the two countries disadvantages the US and has led to millions of Americans job losses. However, escalating trade wars pose a great risk to global economy. The head of World Trade Organisation said that if the current situation persists, it would lead to "serious disruptions for workers, firms and communities." In their July 2018 meeting, G20 finance ministers called for dialogue to ease tensions among the parties. Isolationism is also spreading among other members of the G20. According to WTO G20 countries applied 40 new trade restrictive measures between May and October, covering about 481 billion USD of trade.

Chinese President Xi Jinping and US President Donald Trump will meet at the G20 Leaders' Summit, with the hope that the leaders will able to strike a deal to ease the trade tensions between their countries.

— **THEME OF THE SUMMIT** —
BUILDING CONSENSUS FOR FAIR AND SUSTAINABLE DEVELOPMENT



THE FUTURE OF WORK

Unleashing peoples' potential:

- Policy proposals on employment, welfare and education agendas
- Embracing technological change while preventing exclusion, social disintegration, or backlash
- Investment in training and skills for life and work

INFRASTRUCTURE FOR DEVELOPMENT

Mobilizing private resources to reduce the infrastructure deficit:

- Reducing the global infrastructure gap
- Mobilizing private investment toward infrastructure
- Developing infrastructure as an asset class

A SUSTAINABLE FOOD FUTURE

Improving soils and increasing productivity:

- Food security and peace across the world
- Meeting the dietary needs of future populations in a sustainable way
- Preventing reduction of the land available for food production

Source: TRT World

G20'S GLOBAL IMPACT

The G20 represents a significant proportion of the world's economy with its inclusive membership structure.

85%

GLOBAL
GDP

80%

GLOBAL
INVESTMENTS

75%

INTERNATIONAL
TRADE

66%

WORLD
POPULATION

G20 ARGENTINA IN NUMBERS



G20 ARGENTINA 2018

+5000

PARTICIPATING
DELEGATES

12

WORK
STREAMS

84

WORKING
MEETINGS

11

HOST CITIES IN
ARGENTINA

28

FINANCE
MEETINGS

11

JOINT STATEMENTS ISSUED
AT MINISTERIAL MEETINGS

14

MINISTERIAL
MEETINGS

7

ENGAGEMENT
GROUP SUMMITS

G20 LEADER'S SUMMIT

2

DAYS

The Leader's Summit is the most important annual event of the G20, the leading international forum for economic, financial and political cooperation.

+30

WORLD LEADERS

On 30 November and 1 December, world leaders will meet in Buenos Aires to wrap up the G20's work in 2018 and issue a leader's declaration with a focus on fair and sustainable development.

1

DECLARATION

Turkey and the G20

Turkey has been a member of G20 since its establishment in 1999. In 2017, Turkey ranked 13th in the world in terms of GDP at purchasing power parity (PPP) and 17th in nominal GDP. Moreover, Turkey is also one of the top twenty countries in terms of population, currently ranking 19th with 80 million inhabitants. Besides being in the top twenty in terms of economy and population Turkey's special characteristics have also played a critical role in its membership to the G20.

Turkey's historical and geopolitical position makes Ankara an important player in the Balkans, the Caucasus, Central Asia, the Middle East and the Black Sea and Mediterranean regions. Furthermore, Turkey is one of the three members of G20 from the Muslim World, which constitutes one-third of the world's population. In this way, Turkey plays an important role in extending G20's influence beyond the borders of the member countries.

In addition, Turkey is also a member in other international organisations, such as the United Nations, NATO and the OECD. The country is also a candidate member of the EU. Although there have been setbacks at times, Turkey represents a rare example of a functional democracy in its region and in the wider Muslim World. Although democracy is not a criteria for membership in the G20 - as there are non-democratic member countries such as China and Saudi Arabia - these distinctive aspects of Turkey make it a valuable member of the G20 and the wider international community in general.

As the G20 was originally formed by the G7 countries to better manage global challenges, it represents an opportunity for middle powers, such as Turkey, with growing economies to become more active in the management of global affairs. Therefore, Turkey's membership in the G20 has been advantageous to Ankara regarding its efforts to become a more powerful regional and global player, both economically and politically.



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan holds a press conference during the G20 China Leaders' Summit on September 05, 2016 (Mehmet Ali Özcan - AA)

Turkey: An Emerging Power



President Recep Tayyip Erdoğan at G20 Germany Leaders' Summit (Halil Sağırkaya - AA)

The Republic of Turkey was founded in 1923 after the dissolution of the Ottoman Empire following the latter's defeat in the First World War. While Turkey did not participate in the Second World War, the Soviet Union, as one of the victorious parties, demanded control of Turkey's North Eastern region as well as the Turkish straits connecting the Black Sea to the Mediterranean. Thus, Turkey joined the US-led Western camp in order to protect itself from Moscow's aggressive policies. To align itself with the Western democracies, Turkey transformed itself into a multi-party system and held free elections. Ankara joined the Korean War in 1950 on the side of United Nations forces. Soon afterwards, Turkey was accepted into NATO.

Although part of the Western camp, Turkey hesitated to take on an active international orientation, and largely held onto a passive approach throughout most of the Cold War. Ankara's relations with the US and its NATO allies were strained when Turkey intervened in Cyprus to protect the interests of the Turkish minority living on the island. Although an arms embargo on Turkey was put into effect, Turkey retained its membership in NATO.

The end of the Cold War presented various opportunities as well as challenges to Turkey. Its geopolitical position made Ankara a key actor in the post-Cold War issues such

as Yugoslav Crisis, the independence of former Soviet Turkic Republics in Central Asia, the Gulf Wars and the Arab Spring. However, during the 1990s, Turkey missed many opportunities to become a more active actor in the international arena because of economic and political instability with frequent elections and unsuccessful coalition governments. Nonetheless, during the 2000s Turkey made remarkable

achievements in terms of economic and political stability. Ankara also succeeded to transform these achievements to become more involved in regional and global matters.

After the 2001 economic crisis, Ankara initiated a series of reforms to stabilise its economy. The measures taken by Turkey soon bore fruit. The Turkish economy showed significant growth after the 2001 crisis, reaching an average annual GDP growth rate of 4.8% between 2002 and 2017. In this same period, GDP per capita rose to 10,500 USD from 3,500 USD and Turkey also managed to somewhat stabilise its inflation to an average of 10% compared to 70% between 1989 and 2002.

Under the ruling Justice and Development Party (AK Party), Turkey's continuous economic growth and increased political stability has allowed Ankara to become more active in international issues. While Turkey has sought to strengthen its ties with its traditional Western allies, for example, by continuing accession negotiations to the European Union, Ankara has also attempted to pursue a more multidimensional foreign policy.

Under the leadership of the AK Party Turkey undertook a proactive strategy to improve its relations with surrounding countries such as Greece, Armenia, Iran, Iraq and Syria. Moreover, Ankara undertook initiatives to play a mediator

role in regional conflicts. In this regard, trilateral summits were held at various levels to bring conflicting parties to the table. Turkey-Bosnia and Herzegovina-Serbia, Turkey-Afghanistan-Pakistan and Turkey-Israel-Syria meetings are examples of these initiatives.

Turkey was also an active actor during the Arab Spring. The Turkish model of democracy has, for some time, been an example for Muslim countries in their own paths towards democracy. Rather than siding with authoritarian dictatorships, Turkey supported the democratic demands of the masses, increasing Turkey's already high level of popularity among the Arab people. Simultaneously, booming exports of Turkish TV series fed a growing interest in Turkish cultural production and goods among Arabs, and contributed to a growing number of tourists visiting Turkey from the Middle East. It was primarily through the mechanisms of 'soft-power' such as this that Turkey became a significant player in the events of the Arab Spring.

Turkey's active foreign policy stance towards the Middle East led some critics to claim that Ankara was turning its back on the West. However, these claims ring hollow as Turkey's stance towards the Arab Spring, the Iran nuclear issue, and the Ukraine crisis was mostly in line with that of its NATO allies. The difference was that Turkey, as a middle power, sought to benefit from the Post-Cold War multipolar system by pursuing a more independent foreign policy than previously. By strategically leveraging its unique historical and geopolitical position, Turkey is attempting to build direct relations with its neighbours, rather than simply following the lead of its powerful allies.

Turkey also seeks to become active in multilateral and cooperative bodies to extend the influence of its foreign policy and benefit from multilateralism and internationalism. International bodies, such as the UN, NATO, EU, G20, the Organisation of Islamic Cooperation (OIC) and even BRICS, present such opportunities.

For example, during their tenure in 2010 as a non-permanent membership to the United Nations Security Council (UNSC), Turkey and Brazil reached an agreement with Iran regarding its nuclear program. Although the agreement did not ultimately receive assent from UNSC, it represented the potential of diplomacy conducted through multilateral organisations to find potential solutions to critical international issues.

It is particularly in this aspect that G20 membership presents various opportunities for Turkey. Through bodies like the G20 and other multilateral institutions, Turkey has the opportunity to influence global governance in a way that it could not on its own. When combined with Turkey's independent initiatives, participation in these institutions gives Ankara a position of strength in the international community. Moreover, Turkey and other emerging and middle powers in the G20 hold a vital role in defending multilateralism at a time when a new nationalist wave is rising in the Western Hemisphere, particularly in the United States.

With a view of overcoming these and other challenges, a partnership was formed among Mexico, Indonesia, South Korea, Turkey and Australia (MIKTA) in 2011 during the G20 summit in Mexico. MIKTA is an unofficial consultation and coordination platform that was formed to present common solutions to regional and global problems and to enhance global governance. Energy, the fight against terrorism, commercial and economic cooperation, good governance, democracy, sustainable development, gender equality and peacekeeping operations are at the top of MIKTA's agenda.

Turkey also benefits from the G20 in the economic realm in many aspects. Ankara has the chance to push forward its agenda towards the global economy during the G20 summits and partner with other countries to further their agenda. In this respect, Ankara supported an initiative by other G20 members to give emerging economies more power in the decision making process of the IMF. Turkey is also one of the G20 members that has proposed the creation of new regulations related to the international credit rating regime. The Turkish Government has argued that Western private credit ranking agencies are biased towards developing countries. Another example of Turkey's economic agenda at work in the G20 is its focus on enhancing trade among developing countries.

Unlike other G20 countries, such as Russia and Saudi Arabia, Turkey lacks natural resources, such as oil and natural gas, to support its economy and provide a strong boost in exports. Therefore, perhaps more than resource-rich members of the body, Turkey needs foreign investment to help grow its economy. By showing commitment and contribution to the G20, Turkey demonstrates to foreign investors that it is a respected member of the international community and that their investments in the country are secure. Moreover, the G20 helps Turkey to protect and enhance its attractiveness and also make structural reforms to strengthen its economy.

Turkey's G20 Presidency and the 2015 Antalya Summit



G20 Turkey Leaders' Summit in Antalya in 2015 (Volkan Furuncu - AA)

Turkey chaired the G20 Presidency in 2015 and hosted the Leaders' Summit in Antalya. Along with the permanent G20 members, Turkey hosted delegations from Azerbaijan, Singapore and Spain, as well as the chairs of the AU (Zimbabwe), ASEAN (Malaysia), and the NEPAD (Senegal).

In addition to the Leaders' Summit Turkey also hosted:

- **The G20 Finance Ministers Meeting**
- **The Food and Agriculture Ministers Meeting**
- **The Labour and Employment Ministers Meeting**
- **The Tourism Ministers Meeting**
- **The Trade Ministers Meeting**
- **The Energy Ministers Meeting**

The G20 Energy Ministers met for the first time in G20 history in Istanbul. Moreover, the Women 20 engagement group was established during Turkey's presidency in order to promote gender inclusive economic growth.

Besides the W20, Business 20, Civil 20, Labour 20, Think 20 and Youth 20 engagement groups also held summits on their speciality fields during Turkish Presidency of G20.

Three key objectives of the G20 Agenda in 2015 were: strengthening the global economic recovery, enhancing resilience and buttressing sustainability. Turkey emphasised the importance of strong cooperation between G20 members and the enhancement of the engagement between the G20 and Low-Income Developing Countries.

Ankara's priorities in 2015 revolved around ensuring inclusive and robust growth through global collective action. To achieve this, Ankara put forward a formula of inclusiveness, implementation and investment for growth. First, inclusiveness as the promotion of small and medium-sized enterprises on the domestic level and assisting Low-Income Developing Countries on the international level. Second, implementation of a monitoring mechanisms to follow the reform commitments of signatory countries and organisations. Third, investment for global growth and new jobs.

MBS' Participation in the G20 Leaders' Summit

Saudi Arabia's Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman (MBS) will attend the G20 Leaders Summit in Argentina on behalf of his father, King Salman bin Abdul-Aziz. Framed by some in the Western media as an ambitious young reformer, a series of policy failures and humanitarian disasters have cast a long shadow on MBS' presence at the summit. These include the war in Yemen, which has led to what the UN calls the worst humanitarian crisis in the world, the blockade of Qatar, a crackdown against dissidents and elites at home, the effective kidnapping and forced resignation of Lebanese Prime Minister Saad Hariri, and most prominently, the murder of Jamal Khashoggi. Since the murder of Jamal Khashoggi in the Saudi consulate in Istanbul, the Crown Prince has been keeping a low profile. With the exception of a series of recent visits to Arab capitals, the G20 summit will be his first major overseas visit since the Khashoggi murder.¹

The United States, France and Germany, among others, have put sanctions in place on 18 people related to the assassination. Moreover, Germany, Denmark and Finland declared that they would stop arms sales to Saudi Arabia. The Crown Prince's decision to participate the G20 Summit will be controversial for the other leaders attending the meeting. It is reported that MBS sees the summit a chance to meet leaders and smooth over the cracks after having been directly linked to the Khashoggi killing. Although the US President Donald Trump has sought to divert attention away from the issue, the international community has insisted that all aspects of the issue should be brought to light. Additionally, Human Rights Watch recently filed a submission to the Argentinian Federal Court alleging that war crimes have been committed in Yemen by Saudi Forces under the authority of the Crown Prince, further complicating his participation in the summit.



President Donald Trump with Crown Prince Mohammed bin Salman at the White House on March 20, 2018 (Bandar Algaloud / Saudi Kingdom Council / Handout - AA)

¹ For a detailed account of the murder of Jamal Khashoggi and its wider geopolitical implications please see the following reports previously produced by the TRT World Research Centre:

A) Murder in a Consulate: The Killing of Jamal Khashoggi <https://researchcentre.trtworld.com/publications/info-packs/murder-in-a-consulate-the-killing-of-jamal-khashoggi>

B) Chronicle of a Death Foretold: The Jamal Khashoggi Affair and Turkish-Saudi Relations <https://researchcentre.trtworld.com/publications/reports/chronicle-of-a-death-foretold-the-jamal-khashoggi-affair-and-turkish-saudi-relations>

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